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Shock tactics in the women's magazine wars

The naked and the read

G2 pages 12/13

Education

Who excludes violent teachers?

G2 pages 10/11

David Lacey and Richard Williams on the big match

Bring on the Dutch

Sport back page



Divorce: A law nobody wants

'Deeply flawed' bill saved after Labour forces concessions from Government

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

AFTER 12 months of bitter opposition from the Tory moral majority, the right-wing press, religious leaders and lawyers, the most controversial piece of legislation since the poll tax will become law upon Royal Assent in a few days.

The failure of the Family Law Bill, centrepiece of the Government's legislative programme, would have been a serious blow for the beleaguered John Major and would have prompted the resignation of its chief architect, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay.

It was saved when Labour wrenched an eleventh-hour concession to divide pensions in spite of continuing resistance from rightwing Tory MPs.

The Family Law Act, which is designed to stem the rising tide of marriage break-up in England and Wales, will come into effect in 1996. It will introduce the most fundamental divorce reforms for nearly 30 years, but it has been changed beyond all recognition from the bill which was originally published last year.

The act will scrap "quickie" divorces and introduce "no-fault" divorce after an 18-month waiting period, which the Government believes will reduce the acrimony of marriage break-up and make it easier to resolve issues such as the welfare of children. Lord Mackay said

yesterday: "We have done everything we can to produce a Bill which is sensible and takes account of as many different points of view as it is possible to do within the framework of principle that I have outlined."

But Labour, which nominally supported the bill, has in recent weeks dismissed it as "a dog's breakfast" and "deeply flawed" as a result of the many changes conceded to Tory rightwingers.

Until last night's critical Third Reading, Labour was threatening to kill off the bill completely unless the Government agreed to its demands for a package of fresh amendments.

Ministers agreed last week to accept Labour's demands for a strengthening of provisions on domestic violence and representation of children in divorce proceedings, but it became clear over the weekend that they were digging their heels in on the thorny issue of pension-splitting — a change which was forced through the Lords by Labour peer Baroness Hogg.

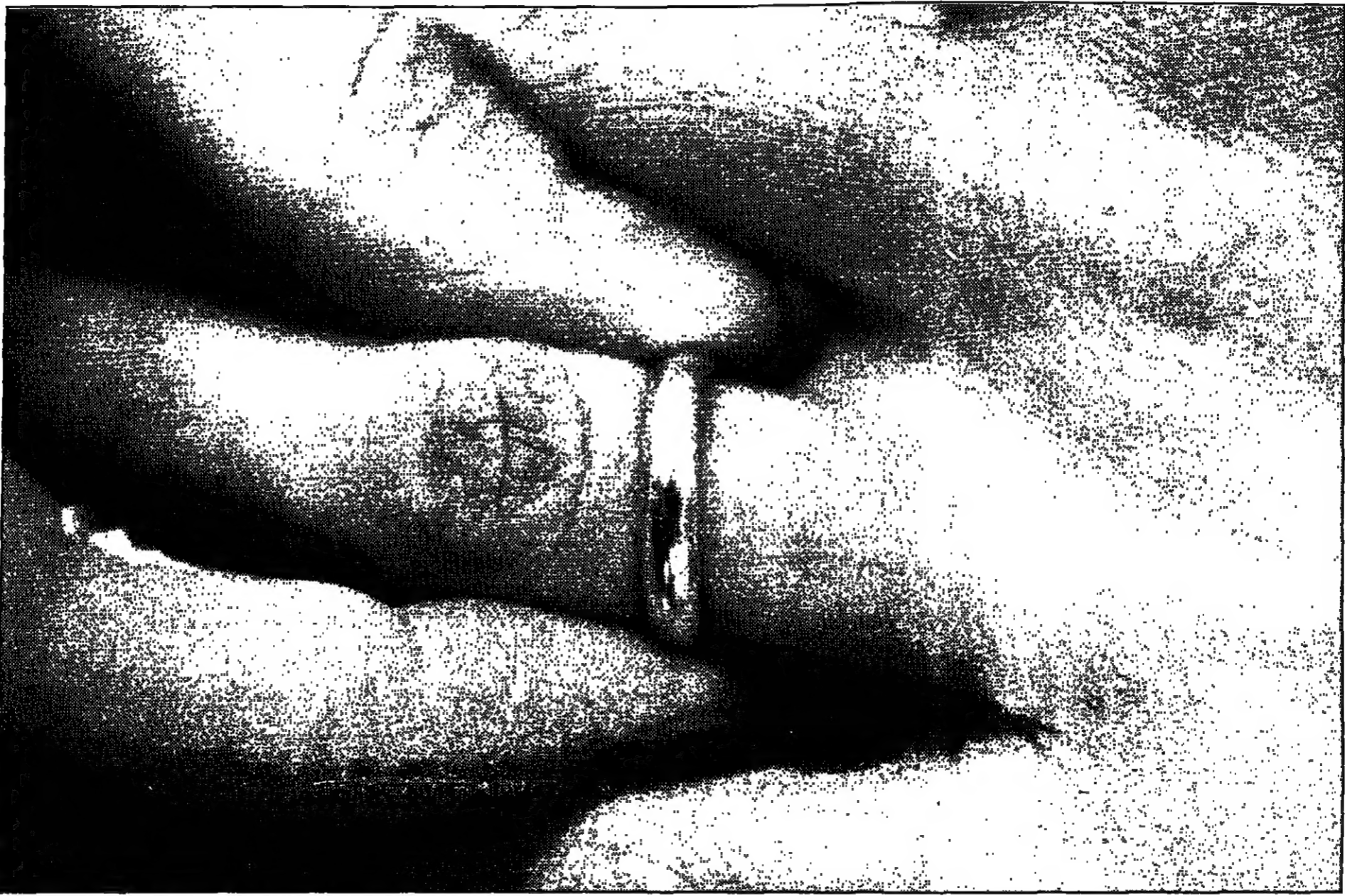
Tory rightwing rebels opposed the changes from the start, fearing that the bill would undermine the institution of marriage and push up divorce rates.

A carefully orchestrated campaign launched in the Lords by Baroness Young, former Leader of the Lords, was continued in the Commons by former minister Edward Leigh.

It triggered a spectacular Tory revolt on a "free vote" in committee stage, which forced the Government to lengthen the "cooling off period" from 12 months to 18 months.

At the same time, a bid to retain the concept of fault was defeated, even though 110 Conservatives backed it.

Last night in the Commons the Government halfheartedly agreed to accept Labour's new clause which gives the Lord Chancellor the power to introduce pension-splitting as soon as the new legislation comes into force — but only after Labour's legal adviser, spokesman Paul Boateng had criticised Social Security Minister Oliver Heald's "grudging and mean-spirited response" to Labour's proposal. Mr Boateng said there would be no Family Law Bill



With this ring... The Family Law Act is designed to stem the rising tide of marriage break-up. England and Wales have the highest divorce rate in Europe. PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SILLITOE

Those in favour...

Right NO	Left NO	Lawyers NO	Church NO	Professional NO	Government NO
Wanted fault to stay as ground for divorce, arguing divorce on demand would devalue marriage, but failed. Wanted waiting time to be extended from one year to two, but only succeeded in winning increase to 18 months.	Argued that ending failed marriages will take longer under the Bill than at present which could add to financial strain for children. Wanted measures on domestic violence to be extended to unmarried couples.	Failed to keep 12-month waiting period for all couples, and a guarantee that those on legal aid could choose between lawyers and mediators to resolve disputes. Argued that amended package would be worse than current law.	Argued against removing fault, saying it would have devastating consequences for faithful partners. Some churchmen backed failed attempt to increase cooling off period to two years.	Wanted that, after amendments, youngsters under 18 would face nearly two years of uncertainty over family future. Called for the re-introduction of 12-month cooling off period.	Intention to remove fault came under concerted right-wing attack. Forced to up cooling off period from 12 months to 18 in contested divorces. Forced to allow courts powers to block contested divorce.

Austin

MUST RUSH, SWEETIE. THAT'S THE DRAGON BEAL.



IRA to unleash Ulster violence, loyalists claim

Bomb hunt detectives trace taxi driver who handed over cash

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

TERRORIST violence drew nearer to returning to Northern Ireland last night when loyalist paramilitaries claimed that the IRA is about to resume fully its campaign of violence and warned that they were "prepared for all eventualities".

The Ulster Freedom Fighters, a loyalist group linked to the Ulster Democratic Party, which committed many atrocities before calling a ceasefire in October 1994, issued a brief statement to the BBC in Bel-

fast which said that its "considered view" was that an IRA resumption of violence in Northern Ireland was imminent.

The bombing in Manchester was "a further demonstration that republicans do not seek a political resolution to the conflict" and therefore the UFF had "alerted its personnel accordingly". The UFF remained prepared for all eventualities.

But the statement added that it remained fully committed to the peace process, and called, even at this late stage, on the IRA to restore its ceasefire. Pressure

on the loyalist leaderships is growing from hardliners who believe that the ceasefire has done nothing to advance their cause. But senior loyalist sources believe that the ceasefire can yet be maintained, so long as the Government does not accede to further Sinn Fein demands.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, last night toured the devastated bomb site in Manchester, praising the police operation to counter "a despicable act on an unsuspecting community".

Police hunting the bombers last night said they had traced a taxi driver who last Friday took more than £2,000 in cash as payment for the van used in the bombing to a motor dealer in Peterbor-

ough. Video footage from security cameras in Manchester city centre was last night being examined by detectives.

Loyalist politicians taking part in the all-party talks at Stormont yesterday admitted that the outlook is bleak. Billy Hutchinson of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has links with the Ulster Volunteer Force, said: "Every time the IRA explodes a bomb and say 'Stuff the peace process', the closer we get to a resumption of loyalist violence."

Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links with the UFF, called on the SDLP leader, John Hume, to sever his links with Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams. "It is time for

John Hume to cut loose. Those not interested in peace should be left behind."

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, had talks with the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and afterwards agreed with the UFF that the IRA was preparing to restart the violence.

"The IRA is trying to give themselves a spurious excuse by provoking loyalists into reaction, and I hope that loyalists will not fall into that trap."

Pressure on Sinn Fein to disassociate itself from IRA violence intensified yesterday. The Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said: "Sinn Fein now must speak not out of the lexicon of evasive words but straight from the heart."

The Irish government will today review its contacts with Sinn Fein.

A government spokesman said: "The real challenge now for Mr Adams himself is to answer two simple questions: has he yet gone to the IRA to ask for a ceasefire, and if not why? And does his party continue to support the 'armed struggle' of the IRA?"

Mr Adams yesterday said that his party should not be "scapegoated" for the Manchester bombing, but refused to condemn it.

The Ulster Unionist MP, Ken Maginnis, said it was time to cut Sinn Fein out of the talks altogether. "Let's accept the fact that we cannot rehabilitate them, that there can be no metamorphosis."

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A package to curb activities of all convicted sex offenders, including house arrest, was unveiled by the Home Secretary.

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STOP THE WAR BEFORE IT BEGINS

SOVIET STORM

The videogame sequel to Desert Strike from Electronic Arts. Get this Austin. So real, it's frightening.

Electronic Arts

Sketch

Free counselling for the love rats



Simon Hoggart

Each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way, said Tolstoy (or possibly Trotsky. There are some Tory MPs who would certainly regard that as a suspiciously left-wing sentiment.) I wouldn't know myself, but I read the News of the World and, like the House of Commons, it seems to believe that all marriages should be happy in much the same way. Page after page of deviants: footballers, comedians, soap opera stars, last Sunday even a "top chef" who has been conducting a liaison with, aptly enough, the heiress to a sausage fortune. All of them are branded "love rats". Large public hotels become "top-secret love nests". Nobody ever does anything so mundane as have sex: they engage in "steamy romps". This forbidden passion does seem to have a revitalising effect. "Super-stud ministers" can make love eight times a night, and then write a speech before returning to the field. And there are so many of them. One gets the impression that half the male population spends all its leisure time engaged in adultery, and the other half devotes its working hours to finding them out. Now the Commons has decreed that tens of thousands of us must join another new service industry: marriage counselling. This will be offered free to a vast number of couples in danger of breaking up. As Dame Jill Knight (C, Edgbaston) pointed out, in some parts of the country it is already impossible to find a counsellor inside 12 months. What, she implied, would happen to a service inundated by all these soap opera stars, footballers and ministers? Edward Leigh (C, Gainsborough) pointed out that

since the Government was going to pay for all this counselling through public funds, "a stream of gold will pour into the marriage industry". John Patten (C, Oxford) was worried that as a consequence of this loot, cowboy counsellors would spring up everywhere. He demanded a screening process, which leaves open the question: who will screen the screeners? The debate was opened, appropriately enough, by a new adviser, Mr Gary Streeter. He was pushed suddenly into the job last week because of the changes caused by the departure of Mr Rod Richards, whose steamy sex romps and kinky bondage sessions caused his departure from the Welsh office. (Earlier, during Welsh questions, Mr Richards had sat bravely on his own, listening quietly to the answers for which he must have been preparing even 10 days ago.) MPs on all sides congratulated Mr Streeter on his swift mastery of his brief, though I thought his claim that "we are going further than any previous Government to give support to marriage" was a hostage to fortune. It was Tony "Von" Marlow (C, Northampton N) who first inquired how expensive it would be to offer all this free counselling. None better than Mr Marlow to raise the question, since he has two complete families of his own, and if both broke up the PSER would skyrocket. Dame Jill said that she was suspicious of agencies since they started to change their names. "I have had my worries about Relate since they dropped the word marriage from their title," she said. Mr Patten agreed that was when the rot had set in. Listening to a debate in the House of Lords, he said, "I even heard the phrase 'couple counselling' fall from the lips of a noble prelate!" He made it sound like a dead bird falling from a cat's teeth. I've never been to counselling, but I know many people who have. Most of them only want to be told their spouse is in the wrong. The title of my cowboy outfit, designed to get all this money, will be something more realistic, such as "Ooh, He Never!" or "What Time Do You Call This, Then?" I'll make a fortune.

Howard unveils wide-ranging package of measures, including 'tracking' and powers of house arrest

Sex offenders face tagging

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

A PACKAGE of powers, including electronic tagging and periods of house arrest, designed to restrict the activities of all convicted sex offenders and not just paedophiles, was unveiled yesterday by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

The new measures on the sentencing and supervision of sex offenders are far more wide-ranging than was first expected, and include plans to track the movements of rapists and gay sex criminals as well as paedophiles. About 1,800 offenders each year will be affected. The package was announced alongside the introduction of US-style minimum sentencing into the Scottish legal system as part of what has been dubbed the Government's "law and order week". A revised Victims' Charter is to be published today. Mr Howard yesterday outlined the new measures to be taken against sex criminals before legislating this autumn. He said: "The Government believes that we need to strengthen the arrangements for supervising convicted sex offenders after

Paedophiles will always beat system, says ex-offender

'They're clever and organised. They will find a way round any regulation'

Stuart Miller

ACCORDING to John, a 38-year-old who served six months of an 18 month sentence for abusing children, paedophiles will always find a way to beat the system. From his point of view, the Home Secretary's proposals are just more evidence of society's lack of understanding in dealing with paedophiles.

"The first thing on these people's minds is how they are going to get access to children," he said yesterday. "It is like an addiction. These people are clever and organised, so they will find a way round any regulation. They change their names or go abroad." For many, he said, prison is less of a punishment than a place to meet other paedophiles. "A lot of knowledge goes through those gates. There were people in jail who had been abusing for 30 or 40 years. In prison, you have a

lot of like-minded people strolling about together, talking about how they can indulge their fantasies."

John, who attended a therapy group in an attempt to prevent him reoffending, believes fooling people comes naturally to child abusers, because they spend so much of the time lying to themselves.

"You have to be an accomplished liar, and work with the territory. I would convince myself that I was

different from the paedophiles I read about in the papers, and I would make people see me as John, the nice geezer. Some of these people found out in the most horrific way when I abused their children that I wasn't quite what they thought."

"That's the key. Parents have to be made more aware of the dangers. At the moment, they are too willing to trust people, and that is very dangerous."

"Even now, I would never expect that trust from people because I have abused it in the past. No one can ever stand up and say I'm cured. There is no

rapy. Defence counsel would still have access under controlled conditions. The Home Office says that adult men convicted of sex offences often describe a history of mainly undetected sexual offending which began in childhood and escalated to more serious offences often of a manipulative nature."

It leaves open exactly which sex offenders would have to register each time they moved. The shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, gave a broad welcome to the package, but said it did not go far enough in tackling the difficulties of securing convictions of sex offenders in the first place.

But Peter Tatchell of the gay pressure group, OutRage, voiced concern that the proposals made no distinction between consensual offences such as indecency and soliciting and serious sex offences such as rape and child abuse. He said: "Tens of thousands of gay and bisexual men have been convicted of victimless consenting behaviour with partners over the age of 16. All these men may now be penalised."

But the package was welcomed by the Police Superintendents' Association.

Disturbing report, page 5

Review

Close encounter with artistic kind

Edward Greenfield

Aldeburgh Festival Snape Matings

There is no place quite like the Snape Matings for bringing you into the warmest, closest contact with great artists. After Britten and Pears, one thinks of Rostropovich and Richter. Ferras and Horowitz. It is one practical reason why, 20 years after Britten's death, the Aldeburgh Festival remains so distinctive, and this year's central recital of the fortnight, featuring not a blockbusting figure from abroad but a young British artist, was among the most memorable in years. If, last September, the star quality of the violinist, Tasmin Little, shone out at the last night of the Proms, this Aldeburgh recital amplified that achievement in bringing out deeper and even stronger qualities besides immediate magnetism. Striding on stage in a business-like manner, a grin on her face, she seemed determined from the start that we were going to enjoy things as much as she was. She paused barely a second before launching into Brahms's C minor Scherzo from the complete FAE Sonata, a substantial hours' treasure, strongly flavoured. That led to an account of Bach's unaccompanied D minor Partita such as I have rarely if ever known in concert, concentrated and intense from first to last, with breath-catching moments of repose punctuating the biting energy, the lone both pure and rich, the intonation flawless even in

the most taxing passages of double-stopping. Before the second half, she addressed the audience, amplifying our programme notes, telling us of the allegretto polka which for her transcends the seemingly extrovert Poulenc Violin Sonata. Her performance confirmed her promise, leading to pure fantasy in Szymanowski, red-blooded gypsy qualities in Ravel's Trigemini with the pianist, John Lenehan, an equally exuberant partner) and encores full of wit and panache. The recital 24 hours earlier in St Edmund's church, Southwold, had many of the same qualities, not least the magnetism of the two artists, the clarinetist, Michael Collins, and the pianist Kathryn Stott. There, too, the weight of the first half, Schubert and Brahms, led to French effervescence in the second, Poulenc and Ravel, with Arthur Benjamin's Tombeau de Ravel providing an added surprise. A central theme of the 1996 festival is the music of Hans Werner Henze, 70 this year, and Saturday night featured a concert performance of his ballet, Ondine, of 1957, revealing an open-hearted warmth such as Henze has rarely allowed himself. Under Oliver Knussen, the London Sinfonietta gave a brilliant red-blooded performance. Earlier in the day at Jubilee Hall, Anthony Payne celebrated his 60th birthday with a delightfully mixed programme, memorable not least for music of his own involving his wife, the soprano, Jane Manning, and her brilliant group, Jane's Minstrels.

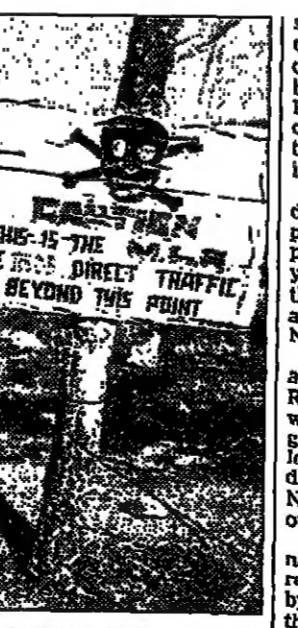


A grief-stricken US infantryman, whose buddy has been killed in action, is comforted during the Korean war. A report claims 15 soldiers are still being held in North Korea

American POWs 'still alive in North Korea'

Philip Shenton in Washington

AS MANY as 15 American soldiers taken prisoner during the Korean war are still alive in North Korea and several may want to return to the United States, according to a defence department report. The internal report contradicts Pentagon statements that it was unlikely many US soldiers might still be alive in North Korea. Instead, it describes a "recent flurry" of "very compelling reports" that American prisoners are still being held. Sam Grizzle, a defence department spokesman, confirmed the authenticity of the document, which was made available to reporters by a Republican member of Congress, but said it did not reflect the formal views of the Pentagon. "We've never ruled out the possibility of POWs, but we've never ruled it in," he said. "The memo is unsigned, and as far as I'm concerned, this is a draft memo." The Pentagon has said in the past it had compelling evidence that only two American defectors — not prisoners of war — were still alive in North Korea. The March 26 report was



marked "for official use only" and was prepared by Insung Lee, a defence department investigator. Officials described him as a veteran investigator with the Office of Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Affairs, a Pentagon agency. The two-page report bases its conclusions on sightings by visitors and defectors. "There are too many live

sighting reports, specifically observations of several Caucasians in a collective farm by Romanians and the North Korean defectors' eye-witness of Americans to dismiss that there are no American POWs in North Korea." It says the evidence suggests that American prisoners are living in compounds in the capital Pyongyang and its suburbs, and that their movements "are apparently controlled by the North Korean government". The document was made available by congressman Robert Dornan of California, who has suggested that Pentagon investigators failed to follow up evidence that US soldiers might still be held in North Korea, Vietnam and other former war zones. A spokesman for Mr Dornan, Al Santoli, said that the report had been handed over by Pentagon officials sympathetic to his efforts to pursue information about missing Americans. While Mr Lee's report offers no conclusive evidence that Americans are being held against their will in North Korea, it cites "a variety of additional sightings reports" in recent years suggesting that many American POWs may still be alive. — New York Times.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance. Text includes: "Down goes the cost of your motor and home contents insurance with our no claims discount. Call now for details." "YOUR MOTOR AND HOME CONTENTS INSURANCE WITH OUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT." "General Accident Direct" logo. "MOTOR INSURANCE 0800 121 000 BUILDINGS & CONTENTS 0800 121 004" "REDUNDANCY & SICKNESS 0800 121 008 TRAVEL 0800 121 007" "Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR. http://www.ga.co.uk/gadirect"

Ballet company forced to close midway through national tour

Dan Glaister Arts correspondent

LONDON City Ballet closed yesterday mid-way through a national tour, putting 32 dancers and 19 musicians out of work. The company ceased trading and went into voluntary liquidation as its financial future could not be guaranteed.

Dancers and musicians were told of the decision after Saturday night's performance of Cinderella at His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen. "We needed £30,000," said the artistic director, Harold King, who founded the company in 1978. "By 5pm Friday no one had come forward. We've had financial blips in the past. I didn't realise how bad or sudden it would be."

Wartime hero Fitzroy Maclean dies at 85

Ed Valliary

SIR Fitzroy Maclean, one of the great heroic figures of the wartime era, died at the weekend, aged 85. Sir Fitzroy was an intrepid traveller and adventurer, and was best known for parachuting

into Yugoslavia during the second world war and aiding Tito's partisans. From a military family, Sir Fitzroy was a diplomat in Moscow during the 1930s, and later a founder member of the SAS. He was personally recruited by Winston Churchill

to steer the Yugoslav partisans in the fight against Hitler, and remained a lifelong friend of Marshal Tito. He wrote numerous books, notably Eastern Approaches (1949). From 1941 to 1974, he was a Tory MP. Obituary, page 10

Vertical sidebar containing various small advertisements and notices. Includes: "The Guardian Plan to give", "Rev Paul Nicolson - Vicar of Turville", "Jeremy Paxman Newsnight presenter", "East End", "Both sides wool", "David Hearst and James Meek in Moscow".

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سكنا مسالا حول

Plan to give London children holidays puts historian at odds with media personalities



'Few people can afford to move into this area. We have a duty to share this beautiful place' — Rev Paul Nicolson, Vicar of Turville



'This is about a group of deprived children having a holiday. I'm sorry that one well-heeled villager can't stomach that.' — Jeremy Paxman, Newsnight presenter



'It's rotten luck on people who live near the school, and can't afford to go off to Tuscany to get away from the noise like the Mortimers' — Alistair Horne on John Mortimer, above



Modern day bickering amid the old-world charm... the High Street and green at Turville village in Buckinghamshire

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD OLIVER

Ultimatum to Major in beef war

John Palmer in Rome and Michael White

BRITAIN and its European Union partners were edging warily towards a settlement in the beef war last night after the EU presented John Major with a stark choice — to abandon his non-cooperation tactics and accept tougher measures to eradicate BSE or risk losing a deal on the phasing out of the British beef ban at this weekend's Florence summit.

The package, which Whitehall officials were not dismissing out of hand, would include a bigger slaughter of suspect cattle — as many as 200,000 on top of the 80,000 under threat, according to some EU estimates — despite the warnings among Tory Euro-sceptics that they will not sanction any more scientifically-unwarranted culls.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Rome insisted that, as part of the price for an agreement in Florence on Friday and Saturday, Britain must agree in the next 24 hours to extend its planned cattle cull, a move which could trigger a Commons defeat.

Unsurprisingly, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, appeared distinctly less upbeat than before about the chances of an early compromise.

"It is in everyone's interests that an agreement is reached at Florence, for otherwise the policy of non-cooperation will continue," he said.

"I am not entirely confident that it will happen. Things can still go in an adverse way," he said.

The outlines of Mr Major's tactics were visible when Downing Street officials stressed that the Prime Minister's non-cooperation strategy had succeeded in concentrating minds in Europe.

"There is no doubt we have made a damned sight more progress than we would have done without it," said one official.

Whether this will appease the Euro-sceptics, who see the beef war as the start of a jihad to rescue British sovereignty from Brussels, is doubtful, especially since the likely Florence framework will not include a firm timetable or be legally binding.

Britain will also be prohibited from selling beef to third countries while the EU ban is in force, a potentially wounding concession which will pain sceptics who believe the ban to be illegal.

The European Commission will decide this evening in Strasbourg whether to put forward a draft framework agreement on a stage-by-stage easing of the ban to the Florence summit. But its readiness to do so will crucially depend on getting clear signals from London today that Whitehall is, after all, ready to meet the BSE eradication terms demanded by other EU ministers.

To ram home their determination that the British government win no political kudos from a Florence deal, Mr Major will also be asked to make an unambiguous declaration abandoning Britain's veto campaign at the start of the summit.

"The British must understand that it is not enough to declare war; they must also know when to terminate war," Jacques Santer, the Commission president, said last night.

"This is far too serious an issue to be dealt with by a purely political deal. We are responsible for our children and our children's children."

In a further sign that the Government's nerve is beginning to fray, Mr Rifkind yesterday promised that if the beef ban is lifted, Britain will drop its long-standing opposition to allowing the European Court legal powers over Europe, the embryo European Union police force.

Tony Blair warned in Germany yesterday that the Labour Party may end its support for the Government's beef strategy next week, writes Martin Kettle in Bonn.

After a 90-minute meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Blair said he would continue to support the Government's attempts to reach a settlement at Florence this weekend but would review the points of difference in the light of the EU summit outcome.

Castaway UK, page 9

Safety warning on nuclear sale

Internal documents reveal concern on industry's ability to tackle emergencies

Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis

VITAL safety information from official legal advisers on next month's privatisation of nuclear power has been omitted from the pathfinder prospectus, it emerged last night in confidential documents seen by the Guardian.

Top City law firm Clifford Chance has warned the Government and the industry that sharp cuts in manpower to prepare the industry for sale could increasingly compromise safety.

In a second warning, Clifford Chance says there are likely to be a growing number of claims from past and present employees suffering from radiation-related cancers.

Internal documents leaked to Labour MP Brian Wilson make it clear that nuclear inspectors are increasingly concerned about loss of skills in the industry and its ability to cope with emergencies. The industry's workforce has been cut by a fifth in four years to 6,500.

Although the issue was discussed last April by ministers, directors of British Energy and their advisers, many of the detailed issues have been left out of the pathfinder prospectus released last week to entice potential investors.

Last night British Energy

— the company formed to own the country's eight most modern reactors which are being sold — insisted that nuclear inspectors were now satisfied and that the prospectus included all matters "material to the business".

But with Labour preparing to mount a fresh onslaught on the Government over its handling of the sell-off in a Commons debate tonight, the Clifford Chance warnings will provide opposition MPs and unions with fresh ammunition. Unions have consistently warned that the industry has pared its technical expertise to the bone in an attempt to make rapid efficiency gains.

The law firm says in its document — dated April 25 — that the nuclear inspectors seemed increasingly to be treating manpower as a safety issue and it warns of inherent dangers in the industry's growing reliance on outside contractors.

Mr Wilson, whose Cunningham North constituency includes the Hunterston nuclear power station, in Ayr, said: "One of the dangers we have consistently warned against is that privatisation has precipitated a huge exodus of experienced nuclear engineers from the industry. It is quite disgraceful that these observations have not been reflected in the prospectus."

Clifford Chance also notes that "a quarter" of the 20,000 "current and ex-radiation workers" at Nuclear Electric — a subsidiary of British Energy — will die of cancer, "about 200 a year by the turn of the century".

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East Enders row shatters Dibley village calm

Maev Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

PASSIONS have been inflamed in an idyllic Buckinghamshire village by the news that lottery organisers Camelot have given an £11,000 grant for holidays for East End children, at the suggestion of Newsnight presenter Jeremy Paxman.

The young visitors to the real village will have the choice of half a dozen heated swimming pools, including John and Penny's, and Jeremy has very kindly agreed to look after the barbecue. That's John and Penny Mortimer, and Mr Paxman handling the charity, and former World Service presenter Peter Bond, said last night: "We've been saying over and over again for eight years that this is an utterly misguided charity. This is the wrong village for it, and these people who are pushing it all live miles away."

Mr Paxman responded with carefully chosen words. "This is about a very small group of deprived children having a holiday who will never otherwise enjoy one." The vicar, who lives in the modern vicarage next door to Mr Horne, said that due to council house sales, the poor were being ethnically cleansed out of the Chilterns. "Nobody can afford to move into this area unless they can pay £100,000 for a very, very modest house. We have a duty to share this beautiful place."

The summer project will bring three groups of a dozen children from East London, for a fortnight at a time, to live in the village's former school, which acts as a community hall and day nursery, and take part in outdoor treats and activities.

Mr Horne insists that "dozens" of villagers are opposed to the scheme. "I think it's rotten luck on people who have bought little houses and bungalows within yards of the school, and can't afford to go off to Tuscany to get away from the noise like the Mortimers."

A group of women at the church gates reflected much more mixed local opinion — and were swift to point out that Mr Horne himself is an incomer. "What I resent is people moving in and then claiming to speak for the village," said one woman, brought up in the village. "But don't you go saying this is a divided village. Opinions are divided but this is a very close community."

Both sides woo Russian ex-general who holds key to second round of presidential poll

David Hearst and James Meek in Moscow

THE retired army general Alexander Lebed went shopping yesterday for a top government post, as President Boris Yeltsin and his main communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, beset the nationalist politician with generous offers in return for his key support in the second round of the presidential elections.

After a first round showing which put him in third place, Mr Lebed met Mr Yeltsin in the Kremlin yesterday and left without making any comment. The top post he can hope for in a Yeltsin government is one that combines first deputy prime minister in charge of army, police and border troops with secretary of the national security council.

Sergei Medvedev, the president's press secretary, said the two discussed "possible concerted action in the second round of voting". After the meeting, Viktor Ilyushin, the senior presidential aide, said Mr Lebed had always remained in Mr Yeltsin's "field of vision" throughout the campaign. "Alexander Ivanovich Lebed made a brilliant spurt and achieved a striking result."

Praise was also lavished on him from Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister and one of the people who stands to lose from a large cabinet reshuffle. He said Mr Lebed was distinguished by his directness and "Russian openness".

With 59 per cent of the ballot papers cast in Sunday's poll counted, Mr Yeltsin was still in the lead with 34.82 per cent of the votes, followed by Mr Zyuganov on 32.12 per cent, and Mr Lebed in third place with 14.71 per cent. The nearest rivals, the liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky

and the ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, were a long way behind with 7.31 per cent and 5.84 per cent of the vote respectively. No sooner had Mr Lebed left the Kremlin than the communists declared they were going to meet him. At one point it was rumoured that they were prepared to offer him the post of prime minister. This was denied by Valentin Kuptsov, Mr Zyuganov's deputy, who said Russia's economic problems were such that the prime minister needed to be a good manager.

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SECOND-HAND TOBACCO SMOKE IN PERSPECTIVE

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Action on Smoking and Health, U.S.A.

Is it correct? Or is it just politically correct?

Almost every day, it seems that one thing or another has been discovered to be some kind of health risk.

In one scientific study, even the ordinary biscuit was linked to heart disease.

But as common sense suggests (and scientists confirm) not everything described statistically as a risk is a meaningful risk.

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After all, we recognise that smoking itself is a risk factor for certain human diseases and that some people find second-hand tobacco smoke unappealing and unpleasant.

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a meaningful health risk to people who've chosen not to smoke?

Not, we think, if you look at the evidence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted a major review of studies on the risks of second-hand tobacco smoke to non-smokers. These studies typically involve non-smokers living with smokers over a long period, such as 20 years.

And this review put the risk of lung cancer from second-hand tobacco smoke at a level well below the risk reported by other studies for many everyday items and activities.

And below, in fact, the risk to health that one other study reported for eating one biscuit a day.

As the table below shows, many everyday

activities have been statistically associated at one time or another with apparent risks to health.

But reputable scientists say that weak associations aren't necessarily meaningful.

So there's no big campaign to persuade you to give up your daily biscuit.

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We'll send you the evidence about second-hand smoke.

We believe you'll find the case convincing.

Associated with additional risk
↑
Weak association with risk
↓
Associated with reduced risk

Everyday Activities	Reported Relative Risk*	Reported Health Effect	Scientific Study Reference
Diet highest in saturated fat	6.14	Lung cancer	Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 85, p.1906 (1993)
Non-vegetarian v vegetarian diet	3.08	Heart disease	American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Vol. 31, p. 5191 (1978)
Frequently cooking with rapeseed oil	2.80	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 40, p. 604 (1987)
Drinking 1-2 glasses of whole milk per day	1.62	Lung cancer	International Journal of Cancer, Vol. 43, p. 608 (1989)
Eating one biscuit a day	1.49	Heart disease	Lancet, Vol. 341, p. 581 (1993)
Drinking chlorinated water	1.38	Rectal cancer	American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 82, p. 955 (1992)
Eating pepper frequently	1.30	Mortality	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 119, p. 775 (1984)
Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke	1.19	Lung cancer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1992)
High vegetable diet	0.37	Lung cancer	International Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 25, Suppl. 1, p. 32 (1996)
High fruit diet	0.31	Lung cancer	American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol. 133, p. 683 (1991)

*Relative risk measures how much consuming, or being exposed to something, raises or lowers risk. According to the US National Cancer Institute... "In epidemiologic research, relative risks of less than 2 are considered small and are usually difficult to interpret. Such increases may be due to chance, statistical bias, or effects of confounding factors that are sometimes not evident."

Philip Morris Europe S.A.

Second-hand tobacco smoke. Let's keep a sense of perspective.

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New child care report 'disturbing'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

SERIOUS shortcomings have persisted in child care procedures in North Wales despite the controversy over abuse in children's homes, a government inquiry yesterday reported.

The local government reorganisation in April is likely to have perpetuated the shortcomings and may have worsened them, according to the inquiry by a team led by Adrienne Jones, former social services director of Birmingham.

The report was published by William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, as he announced the terms of the public inquiry into abuse of children in care in the former counties of Gwynedd and Clwyd since 1974.

The inquiry will be led by Sir Ronald Waterhouse, a leading Welsh judge.

Mr Hague told the Commons that the "disturbing" conclusion of the Jones report had been a factor in persuading him to press the Cabinet last week to approve the public inquiry.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday also announced the terms of reference of the separate "review of safeguards for children living away from home" to be led by Sir William Utting, former chief inspector of the Government's social services inspectorate.

Mr Dorrell said safeguards had been introduced only recently and had been carefully devised.

"Since then, however, it has become clear from court cases and criminal justice investigations that the scale of abuse, and of abuse risks, was

higher than generally appreciated."

The Jones inquiry was ordered after a previous review by Nicola Davies, QC, concluded that she had a "sense of unease" that children in care could still be at risk in North Wales.

Conducted between January and March this year — just before Gwynedd and Clwyd were divided into six new unitary authorities — the inquiry found "significant gaps" in child care arrangements, confusion of accountability, and a "seriously low" level of funding in Gwynedd.

Ynys Mon and the new Gwynedd councils, which have replaced the old Gwynedd, had inherited this underfunding. Others of the new authorities had made budget cuts which had "further restricted their capacity to maintain, much less improve, their child care practices".

All the new councils should promptly review their child care policies, particularly Conwy which had taken staff from each of the old counties and where "accountabilities could be dangerously unclear and obscured".

"We question the capacity of the new authorities to undertake strategic planning and fulfil their statutory obligations in respect of children's services plans without external assistance."

Mr Hague passed over the report's warnings about the new local authority structure, and concentrated on the failings of the former counties. But he accepted the "broad thrust" of the report, which makes 41 recommendations.

Report of the Examination Team on Child Care Procedures and Practices in North Wales; HMSO, £10.80.



Lisa Ponting, Jennifer Meehan, Jenny Kee and Hayley Ryan, from La Sainte Union school, Highgate, north London, enjoying takeaway chips yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

Blunkett wants return to school meal standards

Labour says 'chips with everything' menus encourage truancy. John Carvel reports

CHILDREN'S preference for chomping down chips instead of eating a balanced school dinner yesterday became the target of Labour's drive to tackle deteriorating standards in education by reasserting traditional values.

David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said the declining take-up of school meals was threatening children's health and might be contributing to truancy when pupils failed to return to school after a lunchtime

visit to the chip shop. The Government was wrong to abolish national nutritional standards for school meals in 1980, he told the annual conference in Bournemouth of Unison, the public service union.

"Children spend around 15,000 hours at school between the ages of five and 16, and get on average a third of their energy from school meals," he said. A nourishing meal in the middle of the day was particularly essential for the one in nine pupils who started the day without

breakfast and for the one in six who went home to no cooked meal in the evening. "Despite the best efforts of catering staff, children typically choose food which is high in fat and sugar and low in fibre, proteins and vitamins. On average, they eat chips at school three times a week."

"Worse still, many choose to buy their lunch from the local chip shop. This is reflected in the fall in take-up of school lunches: 43 per cent of pupils took school meals last year, compared with 64 per

cent in 1979." Mr Blunkett said that school meals also encouraged eating manners and proper table habits, and gave children a chance to socialise.

His call to reintroduce standards for school meals was supported by Luci Daniel, spokeswoman for the British Dietetic Association. "The biggest problem is the cafeteria system for school lunches. In too many areas the choices are chips and chips. The children are not eating a proper meal and they are not learning proper nutritional habits."

BBC demotes drama chief

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

A SENIOR BBC drama executive was demoted yesterday after a three-week investigation into alleged financial irregularities.

The BBC said Chris Parr, head of drama series — responsible for ratings successes such as EastEnders, Casualty and Balkisangel — had potentially compromised his role by accepting a personal loan from the director of an independent television company.

The inquiry found there was no evidence of financial or contractual impropriety by Mr Parr or the independent supplier.

The investigation was launched by Ruth Caleb, acting head of drama group, BBC personnel officers, and auditors. It followed a story in the magazine Private Eye on gossip circulating at a literary party.

In a statement yesterday, the BBC said: "Chris Parr did receive a personal loan from a personal friend who is also a director of an independent company."

"The BBC is satisfied there was no intention to advantage the independent supplier, but the independent supplier had potentially compromised his role as head of drama series, with influence over the selection of independent productions. He

has therefore stepped down as head of drama series, but will continue to work for television drama group as an executive producer."

The BBC would not comment on the amount, nor reveal the name of the independent company. However, it said the supplier had been fully cleared and could continue to seek commissions. BBC insiders admitted Mr Parr, who co-operated with the inquiry, had shown questionable judgment, bringing embarrassment to the corporation at a time when its drama had been riding high.

Mr Parr, aged 51, was promoted to the job last August, from his position as head of drama at Birmingham where he had been responsible for programmes such as Dangerfield, Preston Front, Backup and Martin Chuzzlewit.

He worked for 15 years on stage productions at theatres, including the Liverpool Everyman, Nottingham Playhouse, the Royal Court, and was artistic director at the Edinburgh Traverse for six years.

Mr Parr joined the BBC as a script editor in the 1960s. His production credits included David Lodge's *Nice Work* and the BBC Scotland's award-winning *Takin' Over the Asylum*.

Jo Wright, an executive producer in the BBC serials department, is to take over Mr Parr's job temporarily.

Court told of 'Wee Frees vendetta'

Erlend Clouston

A THEOLOGICAL professor had been the victim of a sex campaign orchestrated by the "archbishop of world Calvinism" to have him convicted as a heretic, a Scottish court heard yesterday.

The Rev Donald Macleod, the flag-bearer of liberalism in the Free Church of Scotland, blamed his appearance at Edinburgh sheriff court on indecent assault charges on a vendetta by fundamentalists led by the Rev Ian Murray.

"Mr Murray is perceived by himself and others as the archbishop of world Calvinism," Mr Macleod, aged 55, told the deputy procurator fiscal, Margaret Graham, at the re-opening of a trial which threatens to end in a schism in the "Wee Frees".

The professor of systematic theology at the Free Church College in Edinburgh denies five charges of indecent assault on four women between 1985 and 1991. The church has cleared him three times but in 1994 the police began an inquiry after complaints.

Mr Macleod said he had fallen out with fundamentalists on doctrinal matters from the mid-1970s. One of his adversaries was his brother-in-law, the Rev Angus Smith, who was "a very heated and prejudiced anti-Papist."

Mr Smith's then 17-year-old niece alleges that Mr Macleod, a married man with three

grown up sons, kissed her in the study of his Edinburgh home.

According to Mr Macleod, Mr Murray brought the allegations following the Free Church's decision to clear him of having had a "sinful" relationship with an Australian woman in the late 1980s.

He said: "There is an orchestration of this particular campaign. It is [for them] a sacred crusade, a matter of life and death for the Western world." The Rev John Murray, joint-founder with Ian Murray of the Banner of Truth publishing house, has been censured by the Free Church for spreading rumours about Mr Macleod, a former editor of the Free Church Monthly Record.

Mr Macleod described one of his accusers as a "bolder than usual" Protestant activist whom he had treated "civilly and courteously" during a visit to his college office when an alleged assault took place.

Two other women, he said, were members of the John Murray's Edinburgh congregation; one was given to "floods of tears" in church; the other had sent his son, Angus, a Christmas card three years after her alleged assault inscribed "A very happy Christmas and New Year, also to your folks."

Evidence from a travel agency was produced to show that Mr Macleod was in Stornoway when the alleged assault on Mr Smith's niece took place.

Pill 'may cause extra cancers'

Study finds only a small risk for women taking oral contraceptive

Chris Mill Medical Correspondent

THE contraceptive pill may cause an extra 300 cases of breast cancer a year in the UK, but women affected are likely to suffer smaller tumours which are easier to treat, researchers said yesterday. The largest study carried out into the links between the pill and breast cancer concludes that there is a small extra risk while women are taking the contraceptive and for 10 years afterwards, but then the increased risk disappears.

The study has produced an unexpected and reassuring finding that there is no link between the length of time

women have been taking the pill and the cancer.

Researchers said that age at stopping the pill was the crucial risk factor, with women in their 40s being at far higher risk than women in their 20s, because the chances of breast cancer increase dramatically with age and it is very rare among young women.

The Medicines Control Agency, which licenses drugs, said it would look carefully at the data to see if new warnings to older women should be included in prescribing information.

The study has been carried out by Valerie Beral and colleagues from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford. It

has pooled data from 200 scientists at 70 institutions in 25 countries, and comprises a re-analysis of 54 studies — 90 per cent of those carried out throughout the world into the pill and breast cancer.

The researchers looked at 33,000 women with breast cancer compared with 100,000 without the disease.

For every 10,000 women who used the pill between the ages of 25 to 29 there would be 49 breast cancers diagnosed in the period from starting use up to 10 years after stopping.

There would be 44 cases among non-users, so the pill would produce an additional five cases.

For every 10,000 women taking the pill aged 16 to 19 there would be 4.5 cases of breast cancer over the next 10 years, compared to four in non-users. However, among 10,000

women aged 40 to 44 there would be 260 cases in users compared to 230 in non-users.

Professor Beral said about 26,000 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed each year in the UK. With some three million pill users, it was possible that about 300 extra cases were linked to the contraceptive — but these were likely to be smaller tumours which had not spread outside the breast so would be more treatable.

"Overall the results show that by 20 years after stopping there is little difference in the total number of breast cancers diagnosed between women who have and have not used the pill..."

Professor Beral added: "The main question was whether the pill had any long-term risk and the absence of this risk is one of the most important findings in the study."

Lottery to give aid agencies £25m

John Ezzard

THE National Lottery Charities Board is to risk the wrath of rightwing critics by devoting nearly 7 per cent of its yearly income to overseas aid projects.

The board is today expected to unveil a £25 million annual programme for British-based aid agencies working on long-term development projects abroad.

The news will attract a blizzard of applications from big charities, including Oxfam, Christian Aid, and War on Want, but is also open to small ones.

It means a huge boost in the funds they can hope to tap year by year.

The programme, part of the total £360 million the board expects to spend this year, will be reviewed after the

first year but is intended to be permanent, assuming lottery revenue remains high.

The board is understood to be looking for projects which tackle the causes of overseas poverty and inequality.

It challenged about this new departure in policy, the board's chairman, David Sieff, can defend it by citing evidence of public support. Last month a NOP poll found the public already made nearly 15 per cent of its donations to agencies working abroad.

The poll suggested higher public backing for fostering long-term self-help projects than for disaster relief.

The initiative was first discussed by the board in February.

Among the arguments which swayed its members were that poverty kills 35,000 children a day and that the

number of families living in severe poverty is increasing.

The Department of National Heritage was consulted. It raised no objection to the change.

But the Sun newspaper — after getting a selective look of board discussions — said: "MPs and the public fear millions could be wasted funding aid for asylum seekers and illegal immigrants."

Mr Sieff, however, dismissed the amount being discussed as "a drop in the ocean".

He compared the £25 million figure with the total of £2 billion raised by the lottery for good causes.

The announcement is also due at a sensitive time for the board, only six days after Mr Major's attack on a some of its other grants as "ill-judged". The grants featured small sums for the Scottish

Prostitutes Educational Project, the West Midlands Anti-Leopards Campaign, the Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre and a London gay monitoring group.

After Mr Major's attack, it emerged that two of these groups had already been government-funded and a third was regularly consulted by police.

The charity Actionaid last night welcomed the aid programme but called the sum "a farthing for the third world" when set against a projected fall in Britain's governmental overseas aid spending next year to 0.26 per cent of GNP, "the lowest level ever recorded for the UK".

According to a longstanding policy declared by Mr Major, lottery grants are barred from being used as a substitute for public spending.

Tribunal backs transsexual engineer

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

A TRANSSEXUAL engineer who suffered serious injuries at work because her colleagues refused to work along side her, has won a landmark sex discrimination ruling which could cost her employers up to £250,000.

The 29-year-old male to female transsexual was injured in an accident after she was forced to work alone, and may never work again because of her injuries.

She was off work for six months and then sacked because she was left with a permanent disability.

The decision, from London South industrial tribunal, is the first to follow an historic ruling last April from the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg that transsexuals are protected under a European Commission directive dealing with equal treatment of men and women at work.

Neither the woman, R, nor her former employers, can be named because of a tribunal ruling protecting their identities.

The Luxembourg decision opened the way for the Sex Discrimination Act to be applied to transsexuals for the first time.

With no ceiling on awards for sex discrimination, the latest ruling is a warning to employers that they could face large compensation claims if they sack transsexual employees or if they fail to stop co-workers harassing them.

The tribunal held that industrial tribunals can apply

the Sex Discrimination Act to private sector employees without the need for Parliament to amend the act — this has been an area of uncertainty following the Luxembourg decision.

Public sector employees are covered automatically by EC directives.

R's employers are appealing against the decision. If it is upheld on appeal, compensation will be decided later.

R's solicitor, Madeleine Rees, said her claim for loss of earnings alone was £150,000.

R suffers from a chromosomal abnormality. Normal females are XX and normal males XY, but her chromosomal pattern is XYY, a pattern which gives rise to a high incidence of transsexuals.

Ms Rees said R was sexually harassed from the time she announced she was changing sex.

Her workmates put used tampons on her chair, wrote "queer" and "poofter" on her jacket, and even left a fake coffin labelled RIP at her desk.

Ms Rees said her client had tried to commit suicide after discovering that colleagues kept a book on her, offering £100 to whoever could cause her to resign or suffer serious injuries.

Her employers denied the book existed.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed the case, welcomed the tribunal's ruling. Alan Lakin, head of the EOC's legal department, said: "If anyone has a claim they should have regard to domestic time limits and act quickly."

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RUSSIAN ELECTIONS: Rivals scramble for Alexander Lebed's support in run-off as he finishes ahead of liberals

Voters fly the nationalist flag

David Hearst in Moscow

A NEW day dawned in Russian politics yesterday. President Yeltsin said the choice for the country was "crystal clear": either "back to revolutions and shocks, or ahead to stability and prosperity".

The constellation of forces after this election will have to reflect the fact that the electorate has rejected two myths: first, that the freer the market, the quicker the country can be put back on its feet; and, second, that salvation can be found in a return to the certainties of a Brezhnev-era communist state.

Voters believe they have at last found the strong arm at the tiller they have been craving so long. That arm belongs to a two-star reservist army general with a populist touch and no experience of power, Alexander Lebed.

The arrival of Mr Lebed on the scene is bad news for the democrats who once supported him. He has been in power five years ago. In 1991, on a turnout of 70 million people — almost the same as this time — Mr Yeltsin won the first round with 60 per cent of the vote. Five years on his vote after much arm twisting, bribery and bullying, has decreased by 25 per cent. And that is a national phenomenon — his support fell in 86 of 89 regions.

What has happened to the democrats who once supported him? His former acting prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, is no longer a political force and neither is another free market economist and guru, Anatoly Sobchak, who was recently ousted as mayor of St Petersburg.

Grigory Yavlinsky, the liberal economist who lambasted the radical democrats for their mistakes, cuts a lonely figure with a little over 5 million votes. Once heralded as a future president, Mr Yavlinsky last month insisted on the removal of four top ministers as the price for his cooperation. He has little bargaining power with the Kremlin now.

He has become a small fish in a big pond, and the intellectuals who back him have long faces. "How could Russians be so stupid?" one said angrily yesterday. The rump of radical democrat advisers in the presidential administration must also be feeling the draught. Men such as Sergei Filatov, the former head of administration; Georgi Satarov, the chief political adviser; Yuri Buturin, the national security adviser; and Alexander Livshits, the economic adviser. They pressed Mr Yeltsin to make a pact with Mr Yavlinsky but now find themselves exposed by the new mood in the country.

The clear winner in these elections has been the nationalist vote. About 23 million people voted for the National Patriotic Alliance headed by Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader. Many ex-



Man of the moment... General Alexander Lebed, who finished a strong third, and wife Inna walk home after voting on Sunday. PHOTOGRAPH BY IGOR MIKHAYEV

pressed a nationalist nostalgia for the old Soviet Union. The Union of Slavic Republics proposed by Alexander Lebed is its reincarnation. A further 10 million voted for Gen Lebed — whose platform ranged from law and order to army reform and defence of Russians abroad — and just over 4 million voted for the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Mr Zhirinovskiy's relatively low vote has been Gen Lebed's gain. The general comes across as a less adventurous protector of the motherland. Mr Zhirinovskiy said in his book Last Push to the South that Russian soldiers would battle their feet in the Indian Ocean. When asked whether he would serve in a government if Mr Zhirinovskiy became president, Gen Lebed replied: "No, I don't want to wash my feet in the Indian Ocean."

To win in the next round, Mr Yeltsin must take on

board the central message of these elections — that Russians want a leader who will strengthen their state.

The other winners in this election are the advisers and strongmen whose common in-

terests cut across party political lines. In Mr Yeltsin's administration they include the so-called pragmatists like main adviser Viktor Ilyushin; the chief of his bodyguards, General Alexander Kozhakov; the deputy prime minister, Oleg Soskovyets; and the hawkish head of his administration, Nikolai Yegorov.

Whatever the talk of "Reds and Whites", there will be a large convergence of economic interests between Mr Zyuganov's National Patriotic Alliance and a Gen Lebed-propelled government. Unable to break out of their ghetto, Mr Zyuganov's alliance could well start breaking up as key members defect to the government's ranks.

As Mr Yeltsin began negotiations with his new political son and heir Gen Lebed, his senior aide, Viktor Ilyushin, warned that changes in the government would not be immediate. "For Boris Nikolayevich, it's very difficult to part with those with whom he has been working for such a long time," he said. But with Gen Lebed by his side, and the promise of another term, Mr Yeltsin won't struggle long with his conscience.

Leader comment, page 8; Russian kingmaker, page 9; Pass Notes, G2, page 3

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Leader comment, page 8; Russian kingmaker, page 9; Pass Notes, G2, page 3

terests cut across party political lines. In Mr Yeltsin's administration they include the so-called pragmatists like main adviser Viktor Ilyushin; the chief of his bodyguards, General Alexander Kozhakov; the deputy prime minister, Oleg Soskovyets; and the hawkish head of his administration, Nikolai Yegorov.

Whatever the talk of "Reds and Whites", there will be a large convergence of economic interests between Mr Zyuganov's National Patriotic Alliance and a Gen Lebed-propelled government. Unable to break out of their ghetto, Mr Zyuganov's alliance could well start breaking up as key members defect to the government's ranks.

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Leader comment, page 8; Russian kingmaker, page 9; Pass Notes, G2, page 3

Fair enough, say most observers

WITH virtually all results in, it appeared that at least 73 million out of a possible 106 million Russians had voted in the presidential poll, representing a turnout of just over two thirds, or 68.5 per cent, writes James Meek.

Foreign observers said yesterday that they had not recorded serious violations during Sunday's voting, although there had been a number of blunders and problems, particularly with the new electronic voting equipment introduced in some districts.

Observers criticised the lack of fairness in access to the media for the candidates during the campaign. Television coverage had been overwhelmingly supportive of Mr Yeltsin, and anti-Communist.

Andras Barsony, of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's parliamentary assembly, said: "The first round of the elections was, on the whole, carried out fairly and honestly."

Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist candidate who came second, said there had been no serious violations, but made no attempt to challenge the validity of the vote. His party had organised a network of hundreds of thousands of observers to monitor voting in every polling station.

Russia's central electoral commission said it would have final results by tomorrow and would be ready to take a decision on when to hold the second-round run-off vote between Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov. It had been expected that July 7, but may now take place on Wednesday July 3. The Kremlin yesterday sent a bill to the State Duma proposing that that date be designated a public holiday. Russian law does not allow elections to be held on working days.



Yeltsin



Yavlinsky

DESPITE the lower than expected turnout and the narrow lead over his Communist rival, the incumbent president's 35 per cent share represents a remarkable fightback from his unpopularity of six months ago.

Mr Yeltsin polled strongly in his reforms, such as Moscow (61 per cent) and St Petersburg, in his home region of Sverdlovsk, and in energy- and resources-rich areas which fear higher taxes if the Communists win.

GRIGORY YAVLINSKY: A poor fourth place for the champion of Russia's increasingly marginalised liberals, Mr Yavlinsky won a mere 7.4 per cent, and now finds himself in a weak position to gain concessions from either Mr Yeltsin or Mr Zyuganov in talks on coalitions before the run-off. It is not certain he could reliably deliver his vote to either candidate and the abysmal campaign he has fought once again raises the question: if he cannot organise a party, can he lead a country?



Zyuganov



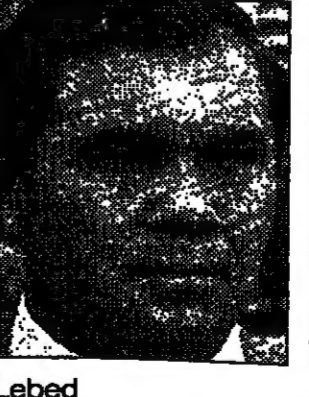
Zhirinovskiy

AFTER coming second with 32.3 per cent, Mr Zyuganov will face Mr Yeltsin in a second round run-off. A respectable result for a worthy, dull campaigner sidelined or ignored by the pro-Yeltsin media — more than some polls had predicted, but not the guarantee of victory supporters had hoped for. Mr Zyuganov polled most strongly in the "Red Belt" areas of southern Russia, the North Caucasus and the Volga basin.

He is opposed to state interference in the market, and believes capitalism works better than communism. Even his economic policies are couched in a language combining folksiness and harshness in a peculiarly Russian way.

"The state must not be a wolf, gnawing at the economy, but a wolfhound, defending it," he said.

AN UNCHARACTERISTIC silence descended on the camp of the flamboyant champion of nationalist extremism yesterday. With a pitiful 6 per cent of the vote, Mr Zhirinovskiy finds himself outflanked by Mr Lebed on law and order and by all three leading candidates on nationalism. The man who once made the world tremble with expansionist demagoguery now seems unlikely to be washing his boots in the Indian Ocean.



Lebed



Also-rans

NOT only did Mr Lebed secure a surprise third place, but with 14.4 per cent of the vote he has become a political force to be reckoned with. His law and order message and strong-arm image enabled him to win the nationalist vote in the Far East. Third in most regions, Mr Lebed beat Mr Zyuganov to come second in Murmansk and Archangel. In Yaroslavl, north-east of Moscow, he won 31 per cent to Mr Yeltsin's 32.8.

IT IS back to the lecture circuit for Mikhail Gorbachev, last president of the Soviet Union who won, as predicted, 0.5 per cent. Mr Gorbachev was one of the five remaining candidates, who polled less than 5 per cent between them. Svyatoslav Fyodorov, an eye surgeon, still commands enough respect in Russia to be of use as a coalition partner to one of the remaining contenders, despite his 1 per cent vote.

Crown prince of order with a made-to-measure image

Once a fan of Pinochet, Alexander Lebed these days prefers to compare himself with De Gaulle, writes James Meek in Moscow

ALEXANDER LEBED has a conversation with his engaging wife, film of his ordinary flat, pictures of his sheepshead.

This was the voice the media yearned to hear yesterday, more than the mellow growl of Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist candidate who came second. The pack was disappointed: Mr Lebed had an appointment in the Kremlin.

This was also the voice which persuaded a significant fraction of the Russian electorate that a former two-star general with the face of a bare-knuckle boxer and a habit of denouncing his superiors in public could give them what they most desired: law and order.

The Lebed legend was born four years ago in a now almost forgotten conflict in the

former Soviet republic of Moldova, where Russia's 14th Army found itself caught up in a conflict between local forces and Slav separatists.

When hundreds of people died in the mainly Slav town of Bendery after the Moldovans tried to break out of a salient, General Lebed was rushed in to take command and peace was restored.

It did not matter that the worst of the fighting had already ended and that a peace deal had been formulated. Russia saw it as one man's resolute action saving their kin at a time of chaos, retreat and humiliation for the motherland.

The general's military credentials are impeccable. Born in 1950 to a working-class family in the southern town of Novocheboksak, he spent all his adult life in the army, mainly in the elite airborne forces.

He was directly involved in some of the most controversial episodes of the last years of the Red Army, serving in

Afghanistan, commanding troops during anti-government demonstrations in Georgia and Azerbaijan, and heading a unit popularly seen as having defended Boris Yeltsin and his supporters during the 1991 Soviet putsch.

Although Mr Lebed presents himself as a soldier gradually and reluctantly drawn into politics to try to save his country, he became active before his 14th Army days, taking part in Communist Party meetings in 1990.

He became notorious for interviews in which he would range freely over the spectrum of Russia's political, economic and military woes, branding Mr Yeltsin — his commander-in-chief — a "milnus", attacking the defence minister, Pavel Grachev, and speaking favourably of Chile's military dictator, Augusto Pinochet.

When he finally left the army and went into politics last year, Mr Lebed joined forces with the left-leaning nationalist Yuri Skokov, a

disastrous move which hobbled both men and won them few votes in parliamentary elections last December. Mr Lebed was written off as a contender in this year's presidential vote.

Mr Lebed still endorses Pinochet, although he now prefers to compare himself to Charles de Gaulle. If judged by his programme — never a safe thing to do in Russian politics — his nationalist tendencies have become less important than his promise to restore "order". His manifesto even appears to allow

for the possible secession from Russia of most of Chechnia.

"We don't need the order of the concentration camps, but ordinary human order," he said.

Mr Lebed wants to cut state corruption by forcing bureaucrats above a certain rank to report all earnings and expenditure by their relatives.

He calls for harsher punishments for bribe-takers, higher pay for the police, better protection of judges and witnesses and, ominously, greater "accountability" from judges who "let criminals go".

He is opposed to state interference in the market, and believes capitalism works better than communism. Even his economic policies are couched in a language combining folksiness and harshness in a peculiarly Russian way.

"The state must not be a wolf, gnawing at the economy, but a wolfhound, defending it," he said.

World news in brief

War crimes suspect freed in case of mistaken identity

THE Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague dropped all charges against a Bosnian Serb suspect accused of murder and torture after admitting a case of mistaken identity. It is the first time charges have been withdrawn against any of the 58 indicted war crimes suspects from the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Goran Lajic, who was freed immediately, had been arrested last March in Germany after his name and date of birth matched those of a Goran Lajic indicted for killing at least five detainees and torturing others at the Keraterm camp in 1992. Meanwhile the US Supreme Court is to let women raped and tortured in the former Yugoslavia sue the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, in the United States for crimes against humanity. — AP.

Death lottery at jail threatened

PRISONERS in western El Salvador were threatening to begin a hunger strike yesterday followed by a "lottery of death" if overcrowding continues in their jail. Inmates at the Santa Ana jail west of San Salvador told La Prensa Grafica newspaper that four prisoners picked at random and already selected would be strangled. — Reuter.

Turkey backs Iraq air patrols

Turkey's security council has agreed that the US-led allied air force in Turkey should continue flights to protect Kurds in northern Iraq, the Anatolian news agency said. US, British and French planes have patrolled northern Iraq from the Incirlik air base in Turkey since the end of the Gulf war. — Reuter.

NZ volcano erupts

Molten rock, glowing ash and flames visible 100 miles away erupted from New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu yesterday, forcing officials to evacuate skiers and close nearby airports. — AP.

Infant death toll

More than 8 million babies worldwide die each year before reaching their first birthday, most of them from disease or inadequate care at birth, according to the World Health Organisation in Geneva. The study says that this toll could be drastically lowered with better clinical health care for the mother and the infant. — AP.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA. (Charity Ref. No. 231325) Since 1905 we have shared the grief and sorrow of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer — but so surely that you would hardly know it. Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust. Sister Superior.

Vertical sidebar text on the right edge of the page, including fragments of other news items and advertisements.

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom center of the page.

Data-sharing deal brings test-ban treaty closer

France signs up to US nuclear club

Martin Walker in Washington

FRANCE has formally joined Britain in the United States test ban treaty, signing an agreement to share test and other research data. The deal is intended to ensure the survival of the three countries' warheads long after a comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTB) comes into force.

For France, it represents another crucial step away from the Gaullist tradition of an independent nuclear deterrent towards the British pattern of retaining nuclear status through almost complete dependence upon the US.

The agreement — like President Jacques Chirac's decision to rejoin Nato's inner councils and military consultancy committees — is of symbolic importance for France, which for 30 years tried to steer an independent nuclear and strategic course.

The US made the agreement to ensure French adherence to President Bill Clinton's plan for the CTB. The deal foreshadows more modest US research agreements with Russia, China and Israel to bring them into the CTB regime. Mr Clinton has

already formally offered to share some US technology with Russia to help police a CTB regime, and the defence secretary, William Perry, made a similar offer to China. If the CTB goes ahead as planned by the White House, the result will be a commonwealth of nuclear powers, in which the US would play the commanding role through its dominance of the test and research data.

During the later years of the cold war, many smaller powers argued that the US and Soviet Union had a common interest in maintaining their nuclear predominance and their quasi-duopoly, despite their political differences.

This has been the subtext of India's objections to the CTB. Questioning the US, whether the new but unacknowledged members of the nuclear club — Israel, India and Pakistan — will be brought into the deal.

The agreement was hinted at in the 1996 defence authorization bill passed by the US House of Representatives — but not yet by the Senate — which endorses this kind of nuclear co-operation with allies like Britain and France, though not with Russia and China.

"I consider any plan by the administration to share our

nation's nuclear secrets with Russia, China or other proliferant countries such as Pakistan or India, as extremely dangerous," said congressman Floyd Spence, the chairman of the national security committee.

To meet that kind of objection, US arms controllers have tried to differentiate between secrets that relate to building a bomb, and those which help maintain a test ban by monitoring the reliability of the nuclear materials in the bombs in a country's stockpile.

At the heart of the new agreement with France are a series of computer models which allow nuclear powers to have it both ways: to give up testing, while remaining confident that the bombs and warheads in stock will work.

The models re-enact the events that take place inside a nuclear weapon as it explodes, and use the data collected from the 1,054 nuclear tests carried out by the US over the past 50 years.

The US is spending \$1 billion (\$500,000) on a new laboratory at Livermore, in California, to perfect the simulation of events inside a nuclear explosion, and another \$400 million at Los Alamos to develop constant computerized imaging of the interior of a warhead.

Paris tries to placate beef farmers after riot threat

Paul Webster in Paris

FRENCH farmers are to receive emergency aid from the government to head off potential riots this week over losses following the crisis caused by mad cow disease.

The agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, will announce the compensation plan tomorrow during a cabinet meeting which will also decide French policy towards the ban on British beef exports before the European summit in Florence at the weekend.

Leaders of the national farmers' union, the FNSEA, and the young farmers' movement, CNJA, have called on members to demonstrate from Thursday until Sunday, partly in reaction to President Jacques Chirac's recent call for a better understanding of the British position.

Militant farmers have forced successive governments to make policy changes by blocking roads and besieging public buildings. But if they carry out their threat to take to the streets this time, it will mark a break in traditional solidarity with the Gaullist RFR movement.

But the argument over past responsibility has contributed to a growing consensus for a hard line against Britain. The former budget minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, summed up the feeling in the Gaullist movement when he said the ban on British beef imports should remain total. He said that there were 150,000 cases in Britain compared with a few dozen in France.

A former prime minister, Raymond Barre, said a solution might not be found until there was a general election in Britain, while the most emotional response came from the leader of Les Verts, Dominique Voynet, who said mad cow disease was "an agricultural Chernobyl".

The president of the National Assembly, Philippe Seguin, called for a parliamentary "information mission" on mad cow disease, saying it was "high time to get over the polemical approach to this issue, which is obscuring the facts, and to study it clearly and realistically".

Mr Vasseur's promise to offer compensation for falling sales and prices sounded like a pious measure. It was accompanied by an implicit rejection of Mr Chirac's plea to be more indulgent towards Britain.

According to the farmers' union leader, Luc Guyan, beef sales have fallen by 20 per cent in France although there have been only a few reported cases of mad cow disease. Wholesalers have also pushed down prices and many farmers could face bankruptcy.

The mad cow row has poisoned French parliamentary life with the government and opposition accusing each other of mishandling the issue. A parliamentary inquiry will apportion responsibility between the Socialist administration, which was ousted in 1993, and the Gaullist cabinet.

Defeated Nastase sees his future in politics

Reuter in Bucharest

THE Romanian former tennis star Ilie Nastase conceded defeat in elections for mayor of Bucharest yesterday but made it clear he had acquired a taste for politics.

Official results from Sunday's run-off vote put Victor Ciobea of the opposition Democratic Convention on 56.7 per cent to 43.3 per cent for Mr Nastase, who stood for the governing leftwing Party of Social Democracy (PDSR).

Although he was defeated, Mr Nastase has doubled the party vote and injected some life into a party associated with four communists.

Mr Ciobea, a union official and lawyer, acknowledged the international attention and flair Mr Nastase had brought to the elections. "I want to thank the other candidates, especially Ilie Nastase, who brought colour to this campaign and drew international interest to our city," Mr Ciobea said.

The Bucharest election, part of national municipal and county polls, has been seen as a key test before parliamentary and presidential elections expected in early November.

Priebke trial judges accused

John Hooper in Rome

THE trial of the former SS officer Erich Priebke was thrown into confusion yesterday after allegations by the prosecution against the military judges hearing the case. The entire proceedings may now have to begin again.

The prosecuting counsel, Antonio Intelliano, asked the court for all three judges to be removed. He said he based his request on "a reported offence and events of considerable gravity", but did not say what they were.

A report on the state-owned RAI television network said one of the judges had said at the start of the trial that the verdict was already decided.

But other sources yesterday indicated that the alleged offence had been imputed to a court official.

Mr Intelliano said he would produce evidence in support of his petition, including a statement taken by police from a witness. It will then be up to the military appeal court to decide whether to proceed. The case was adjourned until July 10.

Yesterday's move by the prosecution was the latest bizarre development in what could well prove to be the last Nazi war crimes trial. Earlier this month, Karl

Bombs in Damascus fuel fears of anti-Assad plots

David Hirst in Beirut and Ian Black in London

TENSIONS between Syria and Turkey, alleged troop movements near their borders, and bomb blasts in Damascus and elsewhere have reinforced widespread fears that President Hafez al-Assad is facing a growing campaign of pressure, propaganda and subversion.

The campaign, generally thought to be led by the United States and Israel, is bound to intensify after Benjamin Netanyahu's triumph in the Israeli elections.

US officials have been highly critical of Syria for its "unhelpful" reaction to the new rightwing Israeli government.

Damascus has protested that Israel, not Syria, has lured into a new extremist, and that it is absurd for the US to call for a restraint from the Arab side that it does not seem to require from the Israelis.

At the weekend, the Saudi newspaper al-Hayat reported that 40,000 Syrian troops had



Blast victim... Rescuers carry one of 15 people wounded yesterday after a fire had set off explosions in a house containing arms at a Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon, Lebanon. Five people were killed. PHOTOGRAPH: MOHAMED CAHPE-EP

Arafat agrees to shooting inquiry

Siyam Bhatia in Biddo, West Bank

YASSER ARAFAT'S Palestinian Authority has bowed to domestic pressure by agreeing to hold an inquiry into the shooting of an unarmed young man in Biddo village, near Jerusalem.

The killing of Riad Badwan, aged 22, who was shot dead by police on Saturday, has fuelled the anger and concern of Palestinians who have started to describe Mr Arafat's regime as a dictatorship.

"Arafat's police are barbarians," said Abed Badwan, the victim's uncle. "They are not human beings. They should be here to protect us, not kill our children." He himself was severely beaten by police as he arrived at the nearby Ramallah hospital to identify the body of his nephew.

Witnesses said that Riad Badwan was shot by Palestinian police on the outskirts of his village shortly after he had stepped out of a wedding reception. The police had arrived to arrest members of a local family involved in a brawl with neighbours.

But the incident turned into a confrontation when the police demanded the names and addresses of bystanders. When stones and empty bottles were thrown in their direction, they responded by opening fire with live ammunition. Badwan died instantly after a bullet hit him in the cheek and exited through his neck. Four other villagers were wounded, one seriously.

"The main problem of the Palestinian police is that they open fire without justification," said Bassem Eid, a human rights activist. "When they shoot they should abide by certain regulations, otherwise it becomes useless. When there are no rules, as in the case with the Palestinian police, so many people can be injured or killed."

Earlier this year Mr Eid, a researcher for the Israeli human rights organisation

B'tselem, was arrested by members of Mr Arafat's presidential security team. Force 17, he was released the following day after the intervention of Israeli ministers.

Mr Eid was never told what the charges against him were, but he believes Mr Arafat was unhappy with his repeated criticisms of human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Biddo killing has prompted the Palestinian governor of Ramallah, Mustapha Eisa Abu Firas, to announce an official inquiry. But human rights activists note that such inquiries in the past have never led to disciplinary action.

Last month, a Palestinian policeman shot and seriously injured a young driver after firing into his car as he drove through Al Bireh, the twin city of Ramallah.

Police claimed that the man had ignored orders to stop for a routine check of his papers. But witnesses told local journalists the man had stopped,

and the shooting had been completely unprovoked.

In Ramallah yesterday, dozens of Palestinians held a noisy demonstration to demand the release of Iyad al-Sarraj, the prominent human rights activist who was arrested a week ago.

Mr Sarraj, aged 53, a psychiatrist and a British national, is being held in Gaza's central prison on charges of assaulting a policeman. At his first court hearing last Thursday, he said he had been tortured by his Palestinian interrogators.

Mr Arafat ordered Mr Sarraj's arrest after he had received a letter from him complaining about human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Everyone in our country and abroad knows the truth," Mr Sarraj wrote. "My statements to the press were no more than the expression of a painful reality reflected in stories about corruption, nepotism and methods of torture in your prisons."

New ally secures power for Likud

Our Correspondent in Jerusalem

A NEW Israeli government will be sworn in today after the former Soviet dissident, Natan Sharansky, agreed last night to add his Russian immigrants party to prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition.

Mr Sharansky will become industry and trade minister in a cabinet that should have been sworn in yesterday, along with the new members of Israel's Knesset (parliament), but was delayed by haggling over cabinet portfolios.

"We're in the government," Mr Sharansky announced after emerging from Mr Netanyahu's parliamentary office. Earlier, Mr Sharansky insisted he would join the government only if his party were given the housing portfolio. He said his party, which won seven seats in the 120-member Knesset, had promised supporters it would solve the housing crisis. Russian immigrants face some of the worst housing problems in the country.

Mr Sharansky is the last coalition partner to sign an agreement with Mr Netanyahu. Last Sunday the new Israeli prime minister reached similar agreements with two religious parties — Shas and the National Religious Party — as well as the centrist and secular Third Way, which opposes the return of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Netanyahu had solved the crisis within his own party after four senior members of Likud claimed they had been humiliated by offers of junior portfolios in his new government. The best known is the retired general Ariel Sharon, who continues to demand the finance or defence ministry.

Yesterday morning a compromise seemed likely when a spokesman for Gen Sharon said he had agreed to accept the housing ministry after pressure from friends; but by evening Mr Netanyahu was reported to have offered the job to one of the religious parties. There was speculation that Gen Sharon would still join Mr Netanyahu's cabinet today, as minister without portfolio.

If Gen Sharon were given the housing job, it would be a blow for the Palestinians, who remember him as the driving force behind Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza under the last Likud government in the early 1980s.

His reappearance would also unnerve the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, who has staked his political future on the self-rule accords signed with the outgoing Labour government that froze most settlements.

Likud published its policy guidelines on Sunday promising to reinforce settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and maintain Israel's self-proclaimed sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Another last-minute cabinet change affects the governor of the Bank of Israel, Yaskov Frenkel, who was yesterday tipped to become the new finance minister. Sources close to Mr Netanyahu say the ministry may now go to one of the four Likud party rebels, Dan Meridor, a former minister of justice. Mr Meridor is widely seen as a challenger for the party leadership before the next election.

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WHAT PC? July Issue Out Now

Any British government foolish enough to toy with exiting from the EU risks brutal punishment. Such risks are strangely absent from the deliberations of Eurosceptics.

John Gray

Diary Matthew Norman

WHILE the Birthday Honours headlines surrounded George Martin's knighthood, the Diary's attention was grabbed by a more obscure award...

I AM astonished by a new drawing of Boris the Jackal Johnson (it goes above his Monday Telegraph column) that gives him the aspect of a pantomime gangster...

IF music be the food of love, few will be surprised to learn of the serenading condom. Invented by Hungarian Ferenc Kovacs...

THE Diary is close to issuing a libel writ against Michael Winner. He recently wrote to the editor, contesting a report that he once told a TV interviewer how his late mother spent 10 years suing him...

PETER Bottomley, the excitable MP for Ebbw Vale, is the subject of an important new book. Bottomley The Brave, by Peter Harris and Doffy Weir...

THE University of Huddersfield has suffered a fiscal reverse. It has scrapped 65,000 glossy student prospectuses because the map on the back page shows the M62, rather than the M52...



How to attract a better class of MP

Commentary Hugo Young

AT the moment when politicians are held in lower esteem than ever before, they're about to be recommended for the highest pay-rise anyone has ever suggested...

The case is good in both equity and economics. MPs' pay is no higher in real terms than it was in 1984, since when the real incomes of the population at large have risen more than 80 per cent...

not deter the anti-politician brigade, which is already preparing the headlines to blast such over-fed, self-important, good-for-nothing free-loaders back into the stone age of public penury where they belong...

I start from a different premise. Far from suffering from too much self-importance, MPs show most conspicuously too little self-respect. Their unpopularity rests not on their pay, which most people know is not excessive...

Many of them fill lots of time usefully. They dash around to meetings. Their welfare work, mediating between constituents and the state, has much increased. Few of them are backsliders, and fewer still took cash for questions...

One specific reform, which would help to make legislators worth their money, would be the amalgamation of select and standing committees, to permit the proper, pre-legislative, expert scrutiny of wild schemes...

They should, first, be more professional. Many are already full-time politicians, but lots are not very good ones. A bigger salary would eventually attract a better class of politician...

Second, therefore, they need to be more diligent in what's by far their biggest task: passing laws and stopping ministers making law, usually through Europe, by stealth. Shocking laws get

through, which no self-respecting legislator would ever allow. The poll tax and the Child Support Agency were two. Education bills have shot through the assembly of the nation at hysterical, ill-considered speed...

being proposed by the European Council and Commission is utterly inadequate. In all the sanctimonious whingeing about the power of "Europe", note should also be taken of the absence of any parliamentary will in London to build the structures and make the sacrifices to do anything about it...

This would, admittedly, require the nurturing of political independence. That's the third requirement. With it, the last vestige of public doubt about such a massive pay-rise would be swept away...

Robert Jackson proposes a rationale for this. It would involve some diminution of adversary politics, appropriate, he says, to a time when Parliament no longer performs its old function. The modern demos consists of a multiplicity of self-interested and sceptical individuals for whom politics is no longer structured by general ideas...

devaluation. A succession of old-fashioned sterling crises could leave the pound permanently weakened. Asian companies which see Britain as a point of entry into European markets might redirect their investments elsewhere...

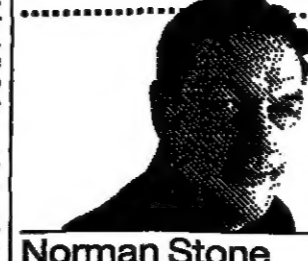
At the court of the Russian kingmaker

WITH the rise of General Lebed, the Russian Revolution has revealed its true colour: it has not been a 1789 at all, with barricades bestridden and New Dawn proclaimed...

With the results of Russia's election coming in, we can see that the West's one-time hero, Gregor Yavlinsky, has got nowhere. Time was when he was scanning a Moscow full of United Colors and the like, could smugly say that capitalism and democracy had swept all before them...

THE sources of his strength are obvious enough: the "efficient part" of the demoralised soldiers. The armed forces may not wish to take power — how could they? Running their own show has been impossible, and the long Chechen episode was absurdly to its discredit...

Where he stands on economic matters is not quite clear: no doubt he would "modernise" through quasi-monopolies, the corruption of which he would try to control by harsh methods...



Norman Stone

really given the orders. Then, in 1992, Lebed's 14 Army took up station in Tiraspol, where another nationality row developed — this time, over the independence of "Moldova", most of which is a former province of Romania...

Outside Catherine the Great's fortress in Moldova, he said that at least Suvorov, his predecessor in these Marches of the Russian Empire, had had a Catherine behind him, and at least Zhukov, the architect of victory in 1945, had had a Stalin. But what did he, Lebed, have? Towards Gorbachev and Yeltsin he could only direct contemptuous reproaches: they were feeble, whereas keeping Russia together required strength...

General Lebed acquired such things. You had to learn elements of Leninism, is technique of power, and to know when people should be browbeaten, and when they should be bought, and when they should be divided. Lebed's career as a political general. In these respects, was illustrative over Yeltsin, he cleverness — the author has much to say which should be heard — especially by anyone who might contemplate becoming a patient...

Norman Stone is Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford



Castaway UK

Suddenly, Eurosceptics are talking openly about quitting the EU. John Gray outlines the consequences that could make us the Puerto Rico of Europe

THE Home Secretary has announced the building of three further "super-max" high-security prisons, privately owned and operated, to house young offenders imprisoned under the "three strikes" policy. The Secretary of State for Social Security, defending his proposals for stopping welfare benefits for single mothers after their second child, has argued that "unless traditional families receive proper recognition by the welfare state, the slide towards social breakdown produced by the liberal experiments of the sixties will accelerate uncontrollably..."

was confined to fringe movements such as the UK Independence Party. Even most hard-core Tory Eurosceptics refused to countenance the possibility of Britain's pulling out from the EU altogether. They talked — as John Redwood, curiously, still talks — of repatriating powers lost by Britain to European institutions. They sought to restore British control over its waters and fisheries. They rallied against the powers of the European Court of Justice. Some favoured an Act of Supremacy in which Parliament's authority to revise and reject European legislation would be reasserted. All this was to be achieved with Britain remaining within the EU, presumably by renegotiating its terms of membership.

The consensus among serving Cabinet ministers on Britain's EU membership was broken by William Waldegrave, who observed two weeks ago on Question Time that there is nothing conceivable in a future for Britain outside the EU. Like many other former wets, notably the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, Waldegrave was talking out insurance against a further rightward turn in the Tory rather in the wake of electoral defeat. But his statement also expresses the logic of the stance of hostility to European institutions taken by the dominant tendency in the Conservative party. There is no prospect of renegotiating the terms of Britain's membership of the EU. Powers ceded by Parliament to European institutions — most decisively by Margaret Thatcher, when she negotiated and signed the Single European Act in 1985 — cannot now be regained. Waldegrave's statement is a tacit acknowledgment of the inexorable logic of the Eurosceptic position. In acknowledging that the attempt to reclaim British national sovereignty from European institutions entails a willingness to withdraw from the EU, Waldegrave was not thinking the unthinkable. He was merely stating the obvious.

Advertisement for 'Betrayal of Trust' by Vernon Coleman. Text includes: 'Why doctors do more harm than good', 'We believe that if you care about your health and your family you MUST read this amazing book!', 'Betrayal of Trust by Vernon Coleman', 'Have doctors & drug companies betrayed patients?', 'Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice'.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean

Intrepid hero of our time

BRIGADIER Sir Fitzroy Maclean, one of the grand romantic heroes of the wartime epoch...

shot by the more vigilant functionaries, he came by a unique first-hand knowledge of the Eastern Soviet Union.

When war came, Maclean had but one idea: "to get into it". He was told that the only way he could leave the foreign service was to become a member of parliament...

Fitzroy Maclean, from a military family, grew up in a country house in Hampshire. He went to Eton and Cambridge, and entered the Foreign Service aged 23...

He arrived in Moscow in 1937, seeing the dictator on a parade past Lenin's tomb. He described him as "a squat Asiatic figure, in a peaked cap and drab semi-military greatcoat, narrow eyes, close set".

Maclean became famous almost immediately, and later came to be dismissed by Moscow's Literary Newspaper as a bourgeois, drunken murderer.

The two met in Cairo in December 1943, when Churchill, now wary of Maclean's enthusiasm for the cause, asked: "Do you intend to make Yugoslavia your home after the war?"

The regiment was also a place of dressage for Maclean's real area of interest. In Egypt he had already met David Stirling, a relative of Maclean's wife Veronica...

He believed that auto-didacts belonged to one of three classes. The first talked too dogmatically to conceal his or her lack of education, the second retreated from open argument and the third...

Regarded by his friends as immortal, he was driven by an inexhaustible energy and zest for life. Like some of his books, his conversation tended towards the extreme. He plunged into many a salon group, all guns firing with the statement, "women are superior to men"...

Born in Paris of Franco-British parents, he claimed that he escaped the limitations of university by falling his baccalauréat. A high powered auto-didact, he went into business, tired of capitalist avarice, became a socialist and turned to research, writing and public life.

He believed that auto-didacts belonged to one of three classes. The first talked too dogmatically to conceal his or her lack of education, the second retreated from open argument and the third...

one month later grew a different salmonella species, S havana. Despite a second course of ciprofloxacin in October, S havana was still isolated from stool samples in late November, 1994.

plained. "It was a good thing to be in... We could operate in the desert first of all, then in Southern and Eastern Europe". There were endless possibilities, I said I'd be delighted to join.

Brigadier Maclean proceeded to the Special Operations Executive, Britain's elite grouping set up by Churchill to propel resistance movements in Nazi-occupied territories.

Maclean was despatched on Churchill's personal authority, literally parachuting into the savage Yugoslav interior. Although the SOE was his organisation, Maclean's brief came from the Prime Minister himself...

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Maclean wrote later: "Mr Churchill's reply left me in no doubt as to the answer to my problem. So long, he said, as the whole of Western civilisation was threatened by the Nazi menace we could not afford to let our attention be diverted from the immediate issue by considerations of long term policy."

The victory of the partisans, and the SOE's pivotal support for it, became one of the legends of the Allied victory. Maclean was immersed not only in Tito's strategy, but in the SOE's direct contribution of helping to blow bridges in the cradle of the war, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and

devising manoeuvres to hamper the Nazi occupation and later harass the retreat. Maclean's campaign was a clear inspiration for the greatest war thriller of them all, Alistair Maclean's Guns of Navarone.

It was also a bloody affair, as the partisans took revenge upon their Croatian opponents (Tito was himself a Croat), with the massacre at Belgrade in 1945.

Maclean took his place beside Tito in the parade that followed the battle of Belgrade, one of the very last that witnessed — as did Maclean himself — a charge by the mounted Soviet horse artillery. While Maclean always denounced Mihalovic's Royalists as allies of the Reich, he remained life-long friends with Tito, whom he called "an outstanding military and political leader, who had the greatest gift of convincing people in total despair that everything was going to be alright".

Maclean was awarded the Partisan Star, First Class. Out of the Yugoslav war came more books: Yugoslavia and The Battle of the Neretva. Just as Tito's Yugoslavia became a bridge of sorts across the iron curtain, so Maclean became a bridge between the Marshall and Western leaders, introducing Tito to Margaret Thatcher and Prince Charles.

As MP for Lancaster, serving in the Churchill and Eden governments, Maclean became Under Secretary of State for War and Financial Secretary to the War Office. But his personality was perhaps too large and open-minded for party political point-scoring. In 1959 he moved to become MP for Bute and North Ayrshire, which enabled him to play the Scottish square more congenially, especially in farming his 5,000 acres border-

ing Loch Fyne, Strachur, and owning the Craggans Inn, where he often entertained in informal style. "Being a Highlander myself," he once said, "I like mountain peoples. I like their love of freedom. I like their heroic approach."

Ed Vulliamy and Richard Norton-Taylor



Maclean making a speech in Serbo-Croat at a meeting in 1970 with the Yugoslav prime minister, Mitja Ribicic

Maclean said Tito had the gift of convincing people in total despair that everything would be all right

took a group of British journalists, uninvited, to attend the wedding of Fitzroy's son in Korcula. We arrived just as the bride and groom were about to be pronounced man and wife through the old town. We were allowed to join the revels which seemed to involve the island's whole population.

No doubt, Maclean's death will revive arguments that he misled Winston Churchill about Tito's potential, and that Britain was wrong to give such unequivocal backing to Communist Yugoslavia. But those who knew Yugoslavia well, never doubted Maclean's judgment about the wisdom of backing Tito during and after the war.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean, diplomat, soldier, politician and historian, born March 11, 1911; died June 15, 1996

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Advertisements on the right side of the page, including 'The supersto', 'ING r', 'COPPER CRISIS', 'Nerves sh', 'prices gyr', 'in London', 'Radio rationed to fund digital viewing', and 'Emily Sheffield'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

ING refuses to help inquiry

COPPER CRISIS

Nerves show as prices gyrate in London

Patrick Donovan, Paul Murphy and Dan Atkinson

DUTCH bank ING has refused official requests to hand over a confidential business plan about the activities of



Winchester Commodities to agencies investigating allegations of a worldwide copper fraud.

ING was given the document when it was asked by Winchester to consider handling the commodity group's settlement business in 1993. Sources say that agencies investigating the alleged fraud believe the document could give insight into trading relationships between key players in the copper market.

TO: DAVID
FR: PAUL SCULLY
RE: SUNI OPTIONS

I HAVE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT AGAIN BECAUSE I NOW FIRMLY BELIEVE THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL. THIS MORNING LONDON DID ANOTHER VERY LARGE OPTION TRADE ON BEHALF OF SUMI VIA MURPHY METALS, PRESUMABLY LAID OFF ON BEHALF OF HAYDEN (MURPHY CLAIMS TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE BUSINESS FROM HAYDEN. THEY MAY WELL BE TRUE. I HAVE NO OPINION). LEAVING ASIDE ENTIRELY THE GENERAL PROBLEMS I HAVE WITH THIS TYPE OF TRADING, I.E., IT AMOUNTS TO SELLING OR BUYING VERY LARGE TONNAGE ON A SINGLE QUOTE WITH WHAT SEEMS TO BE INSUFFICIENT MARGIN. THERE IS ANOTHER MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM, IN ESSENCE, WE SEEM TO BE MAKING LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HAYDEN, TAKING NOTHING FOR OURSELVES. I SUSPECT AS MUCH WITH THE PREVIOUS TRADES BUT BECAUSE OF THE SPREADS, STRIKES ETC. THAT COULD ONLY BE A SUSPICION. THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

I WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE IN OUR LONDON IS DOING ANYTHING DELIBERATELY WRONG. I AM AFRAID I HAVE TO SAY THAT THEY SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THEY ARE DOING. I BELIEVE THIS MORNING'S TRADES DEMONSTRATE THIS QUITE CLEARLY.

How US broker Paul Scully expressed his concerns over copper transaction

thority recently of any irregular dealings with Codelco. An ING spokeswoman last night said: "I understand that Winchester did put up a business plan some time ago". She confirmed that ING's derivatives operation received an official request for sight of the Winchester papers. However, "access was refused on the grounds that it was a private matter". Winchester Commodities said yesterday it was happy to co-operate with any investigation. It declined to comment further. Winchester and other big players in the copper market

It explains how terms of the deal — involving 20,000 tonnes of copper, worth \$30 million — were heavily weighted in favour of Hayden and Murphy — for no apparent reason.

"I have to raise this subject again because I now firmly believe things are out of control," Mr Scully writes. "This morning London did another very large option trade on behalf of Sumi via Murphy Metals, presumably laid off on Bernie at Hayden [sic]... In essence, we seem to be making large contributions to Hayden, taking nothing for ourselves. I suspected as much with the previous trades but, because of the spreads, strikes, etc. that could only be a suspicion. This is no longer the case."

"I wish to emphasise that I do not believe anyone in our London office is doing anything deliberately wrong. I am afraid I have to say that they simply don't understand what it is they are doing."

Mr Scully goes on to question the logic behind the deal, adding: "Does that logic justify the expense to our client?"

"At the end of the day, Sumi paid \$32 over the offer to buy 340 lots of Sept. Of that \$32, Ldn [London] received \$10 and took 100 per cent of the risk on the metal price and the spread. Murphy/Hayden received \$22 and a minor risk."

Copper prices gyrated wildly in London yesterday, hitting new lows during the day but closing higher than on Friday.

Notebook

Curate's egg in the nuclear nest



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT IS unfortunate that the more than one million investors who have registered to buy a stake in British Energy, the nuclear generator, have not been afforded the chance to see the legal review by Clifford Chance. The report, forwarded to British Energy and the Government on April 25 this year, provides a great deal of detail on some of the issues not fully explained in the prospectus.

Among the reasons for committing funds to British Energy is the belief that it, like other utilities, will be able to drive down costs and improve income by efficiencies such as lowering manpower levels. However, the Clifford Chance report makes it clear that in the case of the nuclear industry, reducing skilled manpower levels can lead to reactor problems as has been the case at Hunterston B.

Whereas in other parts of the privatised sector, such as National Grid, there are many contractors capable of making repairs to power lines, the same does not apply in British Energy.

Clifford Chance notes that a "side effect of reduction in manpower could be an increase in events leading to contractor error". Since 60 per cent of events at nuclear power stations are caused by human error, cutting back staffing to impress the City hardly seems wise.

In fact, far from being a steady utility investment, the publicly quoted nuclear generator, without other businesses to dilute the risk, could be volatile. Each time there is a safety scare the shares of British Energy could skid. Similarly, should unfavourable publicity develop regarding the incidence of cancer among the workforce, fears of compensation claims could arise.

The point is that Nuclear Energy is not an industry like any other. Because much of the UK nuclear industry is to British design there is no pool of skilled practitioners there for contracting out work when older, experienced members of the workforce are made redundant.

Neither the company nor the stock market have much experience of dealing with the impact of the share price should there be a technical mishap, such as the rod refuelling incident at Heysham in January of this year.

Despite the promise of a generous dividend, this does not make for an alluring share issue.

This time around, as the company clocked up £1.1 billion at pre-tax level, the only sound from the construction industry is a collective groan.

A key factor in the change, according to chairman and chief executive Brian Moffat — just knighted for his services to the industry — is that British Steel, unlike some of its rivals, can now compete in most of the world's markets. Even yesterday's cautionary note about this year's profits carried the caveat that they will still be "satisfactory".

Redundant steel workers (remember Ravenscroft?) will feel that the price Britain's steel industry has paid for its global competitiveness has been a high one. But Sir Brian would no doubt counter by arguing that those European steel industries which have shirked restructuring will, in the end, pay a higher price. Each time the industry sees an upturn, those dependent on state aid fall further behind their private sector counterparts, he reckons.

The question is where British Steel goes from here. It is strong in its home market, competitive in Europe and developing a coherent strategy in the US. The snag is the Far East. It is almost axiomatic that big manufacturing industry wants to be active in its fast-growing economies.

For British Steel, finding the right partners, according to Brian Moffat, is proving tricky. With few exceptions, steel companies are either large and state-owned or family-run and on the smaller side. Still, the reluctance of British Steel to signal a share buy-back indicates that it may be keeping its cash in its back pocket for a reason.

Radio rationed to fund digital viewing

Nicholas Barnister
Technology Editor

THE Government is set to help fund the switch to digital television with cash raised from new licence charges for radio frequencies.

Proposals for managing the radio spectrum — the range of frequencies available for broadcasting — outlined in a white paper yesterday, are expected to raise an extra £70 million a year.

Digital TV broadcasting, expected to start towards the end of next year, uses much less of the radio spectrum than do today's analogue TV signals.

Ministers said the Government might make selective payments to encourage the switch to digital TV, although these were most likely to be to help companies move to other parts of the spectrum or make better use of frequencies.

They did not, however, rule out limited indirect help for consumers who will have to buy either a special set-top box or a new television to receive the digital signals.

Ian Taylor, science and technology minister, said there would be a case for buying out the "tail" of analogue TV users — once the bulk of viewers had switched — because this would free frequencies for other activities.

But the Government intends to use the new charges for radio licences as the main method of making better use of the spectrum.



Knight in shining helmet... British Steel boss Brian Moffat on a visit to Llanwern Steelworks at Newport, South Wales

Record profits at British Steel top £1 bn

Mark Milner

BITISH Steel yesterday unveiled record results but cautioned that this year's profits would be affected by the current weak state of demand in Europe.

Despite the impact that would have on prices, however, the company's chairman and chief executive, Brian Moffat, said that the performance of the current year was expected to be "satisfactory".

In the year to the end of March British Steel's pre-tax

profits soared from £578 million to £1.1 billion, while the dividend pay-out for the year is being raised by a third to 10p a share.

Strong cash flow helped boost British Steel's net funds to £850 million at the year end but, despite the strength of the balance sheet, Mr Moffat played down suggestions of a share buy-back. The message from senior executives yesterday was that the company would much prefer to use its financial strength to grow the business rather than give the money back to shareholders.

"We have said that our

main objective... is to look for ways and means to invest and expand the business," said Mr Moffat, whose knighthood for services to the steel industry was announced in the Queen's birthday honours list.

In the UK, British Steel managed to push up its market share from 36 per cent to 38 per cent. UK steel imports from the European Union fell as a result of the weakness of the pound against the German mark, but imports from other areas increased.

British Steel's exports to both Europe and the rest of

the world showed an increase over the previous year, but the company said that in both cases the increase was due to acquisitions.

In the US, two of British Steel's three projects — at Tuscaloosa Steel and Trico Steel — are due to be commissioned later this year, though the third, at Mobile, Alabama, is behind schedule.

The company's ambitions to expand in the Asia Pacific region are not proving easy to achieve. "We continue to devote significant time and effort in considering possible joint ventures, but the de-

tailed evaluation of proposals and the building up of the appropriate relationships with local partners is, inevitably, a lengthy process," said Mr Moffat.

Looking ahead, the British Steel chairman said he believed the current phase of destocking in mainland Europe was coming to an end. But he cautioned: "Inevitably, with the present weakness in market demand in Europe and the accompanying impact on prices, profits for the current year will be adversely affected, but I still expect a year of satisfactory performance."

Ostrich farm with no birds 'raked in millions from public'

Dan Atkinson

THE largest ostrich breeding organisation in Britain which took millions of pounds from investors, was a pyramid-selling exercise which was "bound to fail", a High Court judge was told yesterday.

Philip Heslop QC said the Ostrich Farming Corporation had no farms or ostriches of its own and members of the public were paying more than £4 million a month for birds which were either dead or non-existent.

from the public using highly misleading information and even if sufficient numbers of ostriches existed, it had no method of identifying which birds or chicks belonged to individual investors.

The company, based in Mansfield, Notts, bought its birds from a farm in Belgium. According to Mr Heslop: "Large numbers of people who invested in the scheme have not got an ostrich. Either no such bird existed or it had died. Hundreds died at the farm and were not replaced. We say this was a pyramid scheme bound to collapse."

Mr Justice Lightman adjourned the hearing for judgment today.

Scots brewery floats to market on 'despised keg'

Dan Atkinson

BELHAVEN Brewery may be best-known among the ale-drinking classes for its super-authentic 80-shilling cask beer, but it will float next month on a tidal-wave of the much-despised gas-powered "keg". More than 70 per cent of its beer sales during 1995/96 were down to the sort of slouches unavailable at Campaign for Real Ale open evenings.

Nor does Scotland's largest regional brewery display any taverological correctness with its tied estate; of its eight managed houses, three are "themed" into a "novel Scottish pub environment" and two are described as "high volume, community public houses".

Indeed, by the time Aleman has reached page 13 of Belhaven's pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, with its boasts of "semi-automatic fermentation and chilling controls", he will be chewing his fishermen's guernsey in fury.

Scotland does not share the real-ale enthusiasm of its southern neighbour: cask beers take just 5 per cent of sales in Scots pubs, against 15 per cent in England. But keg ale, at 32 per cent, is hard on the heels of lager, at 41 per cent.

Founded in 1719, Belhaven is Scotland's oldest brewery; its owners have included Miss World promoter Eric Morley and Nazmu Virani, the high-flyer who fell to earth because of his involvement with Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The present management took charge in 1993, and next month's return to the market will value the company — whose profits before tax rose 6 per cent to £2.7 million in 1995/96 — at about £20 million.

Man of steel

LAST time British Steel made record profits demand from Britain's construction sector was booming.

Julie Wolf in Brussels

UK rebuffed on open skies pact

Julie Wolf in Brussels

THE UK suffered another rebuff at the hands of its European partners yesterday when EU transport Ministers overrode British opposition and agreed to allow Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, to begin talks with the US on the liberalisation of air-lin services.

But the mandate agreed by the Ministers at a meeting in Luxembourg was only a first step towards giving the European Commission the power to conclude a full EU-US 'open skies' pact.

Initially talks between Brussels and Washington will cover rights such as computer reservation systems, dispute settlement, bankruptcy and ownership rules.

Mr Kinnock will need to obtain further authorisation from the Ministers for negotiations on access to flight routes and airport slots.

"This is a regrettable decision. But we are pleased we managed to limit its scope," said Transport Secretary Sir George Young. "The UK continues to believe air service agreement negotiations with the US are best undertaken by national governments."

Singapore Airlines yesterday called for 'open skies' for other airlines above the US and Britain to redress the balance following last week's announcement of a proposed link-up between British Airways and American Airlines.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8825	France 7.66	Italy 2.233	Singapore 2.12
Austria 13.97	Germany 2.27	Japan 0.245	South Africa 6.53
Belgium 16.54	Greece 363.00	Netherlands 2.450	Spain 121.50
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.51	New Zealand 2.2150	Sweden 10.12
Cyprus 0.6975	India 53.63	Norway 9.76	Switzerland 1.26
Denmark 8.80	Ireland 0.9425	Portugal 235.00	Turkey 117.469
Finland 7.1250	Israel 5.01	Saudi Arabia 5.74	USA 1.5050

Compiled by Reuters Bank Feeder for the London Times and South China Morning Post

Late entry banks on Air Miles to take back lead

Joining the pack... David Sainsbury unveils his change of heart, on the roof of a store in Cromwell Road, west London



Supermarket plays trump card

SAINSBURY joined the supermarket loyalty war yesterday with the launch of its Reward card, and added an Air Miles option to its offer to customers of discount vouchers worth 1p for every pound they spend.

which also accesses a NatWest bank account. Tesco announced at the same time that it was reducing the minimum spend for earning points to match the £5 level of the Sainsbury scheme.

Green Shield stamps and said his company would not follow suit. But deputy chairman Tom Vyner said yesterday the Reward card was a key initiative which offered "rewards which are tangible, easy to understand and access, and which are different".

tant advances in understanding customers' needs and meeting them. Independent observers were less enthusiastic. Tony McNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "There is some evidence that management has tried to be a little more creative than in the past. But Tesco has done a lot of damage to this business and I really think it's going to take another year to see signs of recovery."

Sainsbury claimed as the unique feature of the Reward scheme, and one which cannot be copied because of an exclusive agreement with BA. Sainsbury said the average shopper could earn a free return trip to Paris after a year's use of the Reward card.

consultancy, said the Reward scheme seemed little different from Tesco's original Clubcard. "Tesco has moved on and, as Tesco already has the initiative, Sainsbury is always going to be one step behind," he said.

that shoppers get more for their discount. Mr McCartney also promised developments from the relationship between Sainsbury and BA, and said a payment option would eventually be added.

The battle in store

Tesco overtook Sainsbury last year to become the biggest grocer in Britain. After announcing a £7 million fall in profits — the first in 22 years — Sainsbury's pledged a rethink, which began last autumn with a management shake-up.

Winning on points

Customers can collect Reward cards and start earning discounts immediately. One point will be earned for each pound spent above a limit of £5. Any purchases including petrol at Sainsbury and Greenacre stores qualify.

Green taxes urged to boost jobs

IMPOSING new taxes on business energy use and cutting the cost of hiring staff would slash pollution levels and create 700,000 jobs within a decade, a leading centre-left think-tank said yesterday.

raise £23 billion a year by 2005. The package would push down carbon dioxide emissions by 10 per cent and waste by 18 per cent, the IPPR said.

labour market projections. "Any employment effect is likely to be modest," he said. "Put it like this — much closer to zero than to 700,000."

was fixed. He said there were many people — discouraged middle-aged men, partners of the jobless — who could be enticed back into the labour force by NI cuts.

Outlook

IT IS a tiny industry in terms of stock market value, and the companies in it are not (yet) household names, but the quoted nursing home sector is one of the liveliest around — and not just because of the exponential growth in demand for long-term care.

nursing home groups are busy snapping up the sector's minnows — including unquoted groups — while they can, providing further evidence that the industry is consolidating rapidly.

ally ill — thought to be worth somewhere north of £12 billion a year — is set to grow by as much as 50 per cent over the next two-and-a-half decades.

Healthy profits in care for the aged

rates — crudely put, bodies in beds — and, as with hotels, empty beds put pressure on profit margins.

Tesco and IKEA join Greenpeace attack on the dangers of PVC

A GROUP of leading retailers, including Tesco and IKEA, will today join the attack on the plastic PVC as part of a long-running campaign by the environmental group Greenpeace.

and Body Shop in announcing that PVC should be treated with caution and will investigate the elimination of the plastic from all retail uses which carry a risk to consumers, such as in packaging and building applications.

scare concerning phthalates in baby milk. These are chemicals which make PVC pliable for use in conveyor belts and other flexible plastic products. They have been implicated in a number of medical disorders, at levels well above those found in government tests on baby milk.

removing the direct threat from phthalates, but Greenpeace says there are many other dangers from rigid PVC, which is widely used in the grocery business.

Elsewhere, other private

Table with 3 columns: Group, Beds, Market Value £

Quoted Private Nursing Operators

Goldborough shares, can hardly be said to have out-performed. Even so, signs are that the market expects a slightly higher bid to emerge.

Advertisement for Aer Lingus Premier Europe featuring a photo of a man and woman in a plane cabin. Text: 'Our new wider seats are so spacious you'll hardly notice anyone next to you.' 'Premier Europe. Business in a class of its own.'

News in brief section containing three articles: 'VW recalls 105,000 British-owned cars', 'Williams pulls electronic plug', and 'Bank of Scotland cuts rate'.

Vertical advertisement for Royal Ascot featuring a horse and rider, with text 'ROYAL ASCOT' and 'Ashkal'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

ROYAL ASCOT



Ashkalani and Spinning World (striped sleeves), first and second in the French 2,000 Guineas, meet again at Ascot today

Ashkalani can make his mark

WHERE the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket lacked strength in depth, with no runners from France or Ireland, today's St James's Palace Stakes more than compensates. This time Mark Of Esteem is opposed by the French and Irish Guineas winners in a race which sets the standard for four days of quality racing at Royal Ascot.

have to step up on that form to end the unbeaten run of Ashkalani, winner of the French Guineas, and face another tough challenge from across the Channel in Spinning World, who beat Biju d'Inde far more comprehensively when winning the Irish Guineas at Longchamp.

Nottingham last week. He can continue to progress. First Island (3.05), who raced on the slower side of the track on unsuitably soft ground when beaten on his only attempt at 10 furlongs last season, deserves another chance over the trip in the Prince of Wales's Stakes.

Jones the crock finds crock of gold



Jones... perfect comeback

David Davies on the career-threatened player who became US Open champion

FIVE years ago Steve Jones was larking about on a mountain bike in the Arizona desert when he unexpectedly came across a deep ditch. He fell off, dislocating his shoulder and, he thought at the time, grazing his fingers.

"These greens," he added, "were not designed to be played at the speed they are this week." The course, designed by Donald Ross in 1921, had different grass on the greens in those days, and the mowers that cut the grass down to its present height had not been invented.

Over the four days of the championship the 18th was rated the hardest hole on the course. Its scoring average was 4.5 and it saw only 26 birdies but 221 bogeys, 30 double bogeys and eight triples or more.

Love partnered Colin Montgomerie and was out in a one-under-par 34 which could, perhaps even should, have been 39 or 40. He hit only one fairway during that stretch but was lucky with his lies, and his wonderful short game saved him. Those who live by the putter eventually die by it, however, and that was Love's story on the 18th.

Montgomerie played quite beautifully over that hole, stretch, entirely without luck, and despondency seemed to envelope him over the back nine.

Nicklaus, who said that last year's Open championship at St Andrews would be his last, apart from the year 2000, felt that he was competitive this week and was now likely to be at Royal Lytham.

Royal Ascot card with guide to the form

Table listing race times and names for the 2.30, 3.05, 3.30, and 4.00 o'clock races.

Table for the 2.30 Queen Anne Stakes race, listing horses like Ruby Lane and Spinning World.

Table for the 3.05 Prince of Wales's Stakes race, listing horses like Nottingham and First Island.

Table for the 3.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 4.00 Coronation Cup race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 4.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 5.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 5.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 6.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 6.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 7.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 7.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 8.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 8.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 9.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Thirsk runners and riders

Table listing race times and names for the 2.15, 2.50, 3.25, and 4.00 o'clock races.

Table for the 2.15 North Essex Handicap race, listing horses like Ruby Lane and Spinning World.

Table for the 2.50 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 3.25 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 4.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 4.30 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Table for the 5.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

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Table for the 9.00 Royal Ascot Handicap race, listing horses like Ashkalani and Spinning World.

Ladies' Day is early this year

ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES 1 mile, Royal Ascot 3.45pm. Live on BBC.

2/1 Ashkalani 16/1 Cayman Kai

9/4 Spinning World 25/1 Sorbie Tower

7/2 Mark of Esteem 25/1 Wall Street

6/1 Biju d'Inde 100/1 World Premier

12/1 Beauchamp King

11/10 France 9/5 Bulgaria 12/5 Draw

8/15 Spain 9/2 Romania 12/5 Draw

7/4 England 13/8 Holland 13/8 Draw

6/5 Switzerland 13/8 Scotland 5/2 Draw

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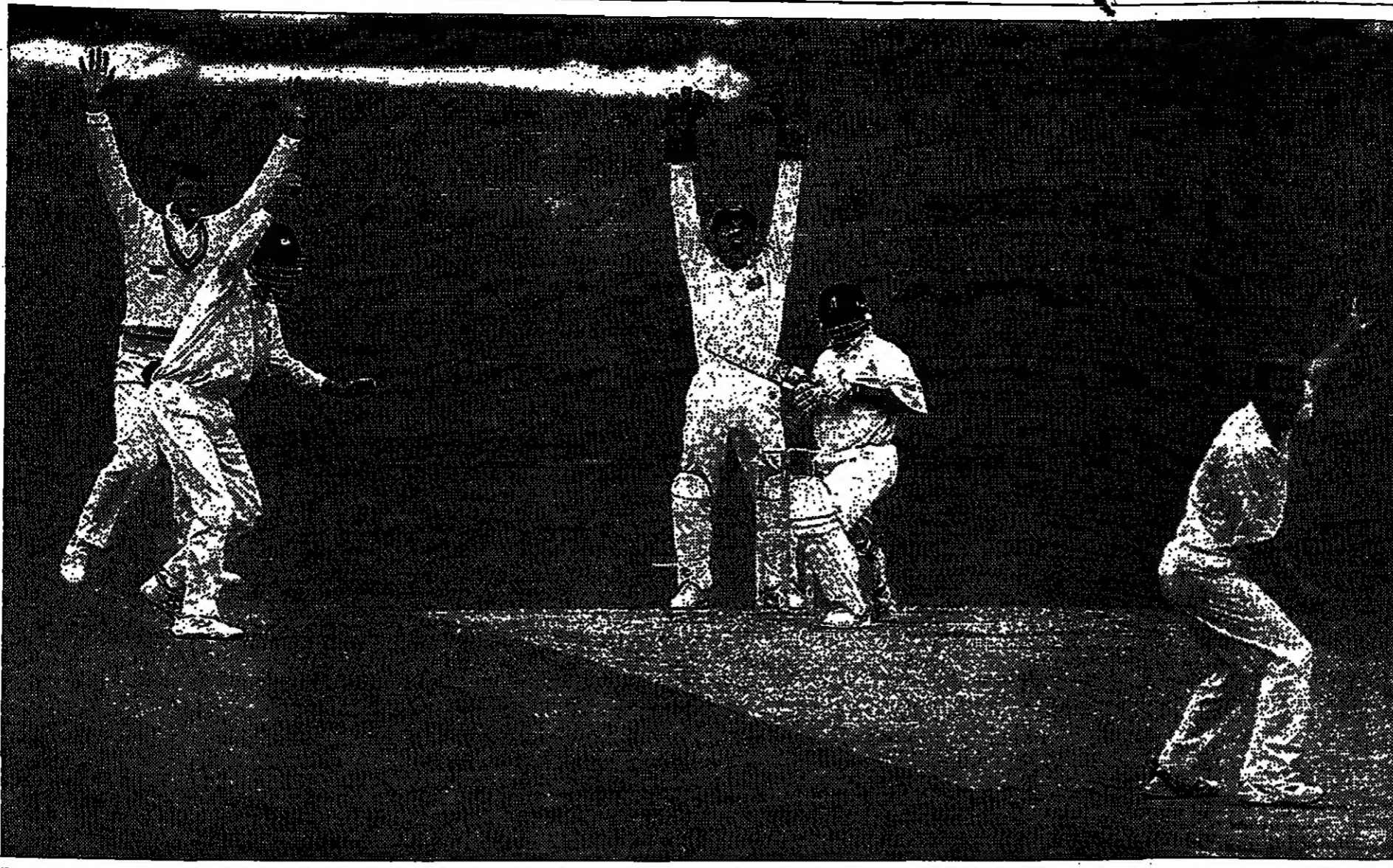
Great chance for Easeby WILF STOREY enjoyed his finest moment as a trainer when Great Easeby won at the Cheltenham Festival in March.

ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES 1 mile, Royal Ascot 3.45pm. Live on BBC. Ladbrokes logo.

White rose in the pink

David Hopps at Headingley

MANY of those who have observed this past week that Yorkshire are top of the championship...



Piper's lament... Warwickshire's wicketkeeper is trapped lbw by Richard Stemp, the final ball of the champions' second innings

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Warwickshire, 126 for four overnight, still 76 short of making Yorkshire...

Two wickets fell to Darren Gough, back to his most vibrant...

Saturday, as he found sterling late-order support, which changed the course of the match...

Yorkshire are not the toughest opponents that Dominic Reeve has faced this season...

to avoid being caught off the glove, would be disallowed in future came after behind-the-scenes lobbying by the MCC...

umpires and players that such methods were against the spirit of the game.

dismissing him on the grounds of obstructing the field or because the action of the ball hitting the glove was "wilful" handling the ball.

Surrey v Leicestershire

Lewis lets rip

David Foot at The Oval

IT WAS a triumph of persistence by Surrey, and especially Chris Lewis, as they beat Leicestershire by 106 runs with fewer than 200 overs left...

Time to declare truce in a war of words

Mike Selvey says that, for the good of the sport's image, Raymond Illingworth should be treated leniently today

COMMON sense in the English cricket establishment can be as rare as beach resorts on Bear Island. But if the game is not to suffer the embarrassment either of removing the chairman of selectors from his office or perhaps seeing him resign, it will be needed in good measure today at Raymond Illingworth's disciplinary hearing...

whether his book, One-Man Committee, written in association with the journalist and broadcaster Jack Bannister, breaches board regulations on public statements liable to bring the game into disrepute.

Yorkshire are not the toughest opponents that Dominic Reeve has faced this season. The TCCB's ruling that the Warwickshire captain's tactic of deliberately throwing the bat away in a championship match against Hampshire...

ready said that he will mount a strenuous defence, and he will be represented at today's hearing by Alan Bird, who, as Ian Botham's solicitor, has equal form: first, that the timing of the publication of the book, which is felt would be better left until the chairman stands down from office at the end of the season, but also some of its passages, particularly those relating to the infamous, not to say tedious, series of spats with Devon Malcolm and the revealing of selection-committee confidences.

unauthorised allegations by Malcolm, for which the bowler is believed to have received £10,000 from the newspaper that carried them and no more than a wigging from the Board.

he was alleged to have made to Malcolm in the nets in South Africa.

Kent v Middlesex

Carr refuses to gamble

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

KENT and Middlesex, both sides bubbling near the top of the championship table and requiring a win to maintain momentum, instead played out a draw yesterday.

not without the occasional anxious moment, batted out the final 30 overs.

and therefore had no option but to play ball. But only last week Jack Russell was suggesting that it reduces the game to one of patience, where eventually stalemate will occur and bats will not even be required.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for teams, batsmen, and bowlers, showing scores and statistics for various matches.

Essex v Northamptonshire

Moral victory for Roberts but Essex hold on

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

ANDY ROBERTS, the Northamptonshire leg-spinner, should never be confused with the feared West Indies fast bowler of the same name.

Great Britain Olympic team

Table listing the names of athletes selected for the Great Britain Olympic team, including names like Steve Backley, Jonathan Edwards, and others.

Advertisement for a ticket, featuring a photo of a person and text about a 96% success rate in every post-war tournament.

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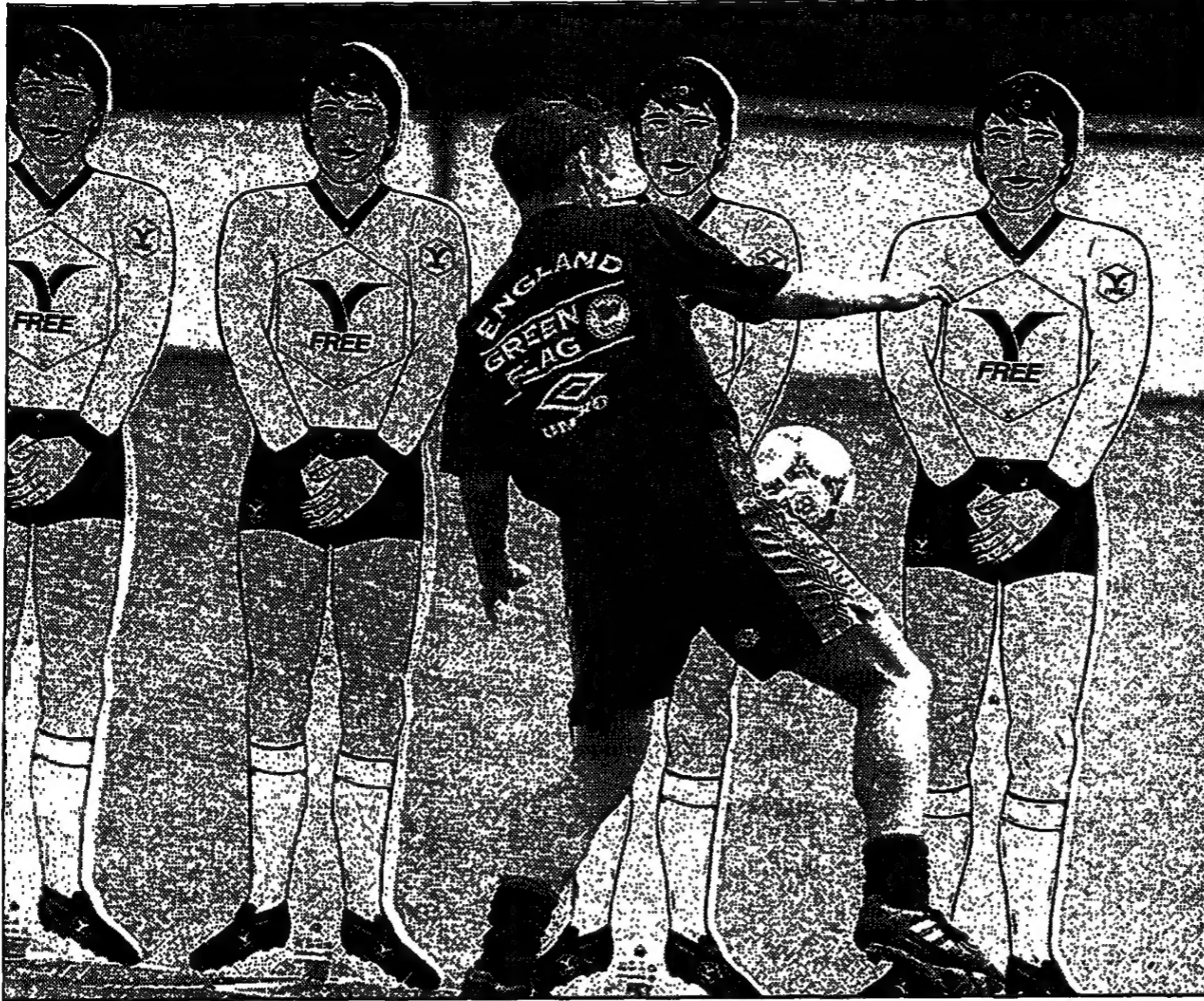
SportsGuardian

EURO 96: ENGLAND MEET HOLLAND TO ENSURE A QUARTER-FINAL PLACE



Adams... knows he has to stop his Arsenal team-mate

England must remember that on this occasion a draw is a better bet than a lottery



Stiff opposition... England's striker Teddy Sheringham mesmerises the defence during training at Bisham yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: NIALl O'MARA

Report by David Lacey

Adams-Bergkamp the key duel

ENGLAND should reach the quarter-finals of the European Championship tonight provided they remember that on this occasion a draw is a better bet than a lottery.

should Scotland be defeated by the required margin at Villa Park. In fact, were England to beat Holland 1-0 while the Scots won 3-0 then both British teams would be in the last eight. The plausibility of this theory falls down on the fact that at present Scotland's attack would be hard pressed to score three times against Jimmy Shand's band.

England's striker Teddy Sheringham mesmerises the defence during training at Bisham yesterday

but at least Bergkamp was on the same Arsenal side. "He's a tremendous gentleman and it's going to be very hard for me to kick him," Adams said laughingly yesterday, prompting the more serious thought

The present English scheme, moreover, is in marked contrast to the situation Taylor's side faced in Sweden four years ago, when England knew they had to beat the hosts in Stockholm to stay in the tournament. They lost, of course, and the salty Gary Lineker was duly martyred.

Tonight the demon king Alan Shearer, a bumping, boring centre-forward of the old school, may well guarantee England's presence at the knockout stage this time. And a little touch of Bergkamp should be sufficient to ensure that Holland live to quarrel another day.

It makes life more interesting, if less comfortable. Two years ago no one would have envisioned Venables's stewardship culminating in an English dependency on isolated moments of magic.

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England's lack of pace at centre-back and left-back was exposed by Turkyilmaz in the Swiss match, and Pearce did not survive half-time against Scotland. Phil Neville, younger and quicker, could be an option at left-back tonight, but will Venables jettison Pearce's experience at the start?

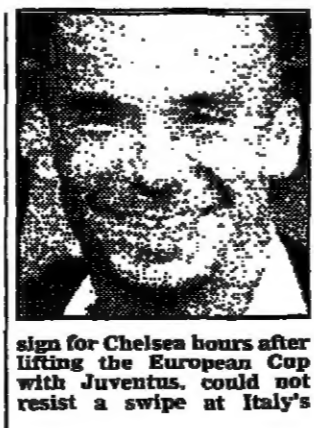
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Gullit looks to Vialli to prove a point at Chelsea

Don Best

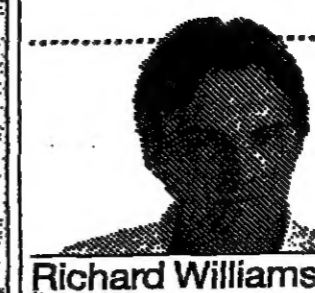
GIANLUCA VIALLI was not considered good enough for Italy's Euro 96 squad but Chelsea's player-manager Ruud Gullit believes the striker (right), signed from Juventus, will set the Premiership alight.



coach Arrigo Sacchi, who left him out of the Euro 96 squad. "It will be difficult for me to get back into the national side with Sacchi as manager," he said. "but I hope to score many goals for Chelsea and that will put Sacchi in trouble."

As Britain enters a glorious summer of sporting tournaments, enthusiastic amateurs stream out of their back gardens to the nearest tennis court, health club or recreation ground. And sometimes they end up covered, not in glory, but in plaster of Paris.

Gloss finishes help cover up dull patterns



Richard Williams

THE oddest aspect of England's two performances so far in Euro 96 is that the players have performed like cart-horses while managing to score three goals of extravagant technical quality, fashioned by footballing imagination of the highest calibre.

These two strikes were Terry Venables's reward for sticking by Shearer, not, as I imagine, that he was ever in two minds about the matter. The Blackburn forward scores a lot of goals, not many of them mundane. But they are seldom solo efforts, and it will take a few more to convince us that the team are capable of providing him with a regular supply of ammunition.

It makes life more interesting, if less comfortable. Two years ago no one would have envisioned Venables's stewardship culminating in an English dependency on isolated moments of magic.

Guardian Crossword No 20,682

Set by Pasquale

Across

- Hard work, article? Catchy phrase needed (5)
- Stay in custody to be watched (5)
- Measure gold in falling star (5)
- Wine sire ordered to go with fish (5)
- Touched material in lumbered mery (4)
- A horse bolted sadly, he breaking free from it? (5,4)
- French sweet making poor English trifle look silly (11)
- Gosh — op being put back leads to recovery through the body! (10)
- Unsophisticated enthusiast returning to embrace one (4)
- Rodent in classical land held by rebel (5,3)
- Rubbish unknown in Irish county (5)

Down

- Feds sailor put down as navigational aid (4,4)
- Island bomber (5)
- Talk interrupted by bore, someone in trade (5)
- Guided submarine to be waterproof? (5)
- Country holiday region with ideal garden (5)
- Hero of Lepanto reportedly in the tower (5)
- It could deflect battle spear (11)
- In favour of locks to make place very secure (5)
- Stretch limo seen in county town (5)

Solution tomorrow

16 Marsh plant enthralls artist (5)
17 Bar offering accommodation (5)
19 Make a mess tucking into food from Frenchman (5)
20 The ancient sign found by countryfolk (5)

Wednesday June 18 1996

Richard Nicoll on

Bad b

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Inside

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